

# Akron Beacon Journal

---

## EDUCATION

# School resource officers will be in APS schools after board approves 2-year contract



**Bryce Buyakie**

Akron Beacon Journal

Aug. 18, 2025, 7:26 p.m. ET

---

### Key Points

School resource officers will return to Akron Public School facilities on Aug. 21 after the board approved a 2-year contract.

The two-year agreement includes language allowing the board to request the city temporarily and permanently remove an officer from APS property.

Students can expect to see the same SROs from the last school year

---

School resource officers will return to Akron Public Schools after the city of Akron and the Akron school board resolved a months-long impasse over who can remove officers from schools should issues arise.

School board members approved the two-year contract in a 6-0 vote with one abstention at an emergency meeting on Aug. 18. It comes days before school begins on Aug. 21.

**SROs:** [Akron Board of Education, city still at odds on renewing school resource officers](#)

The two-year agreement includes language allowing the board to request the city temporarily and permanently remove an officer from APS property.

"I'm just glad that we came up with some amicable language," Board President Carla Jackson said after the meeting, noting that many in the district want SROs

present at schools.

School resource officers will return to schools when classes begin on Aug. 21, Jackson confirmed. Students can also expect to see the same SROs from last school year.

"We're glad to have reached an agreement with Akron Public Schools on the school resource officer contract for this school year and next," Akron Mayor Shammass Malik said in a news release. "We have a long partnership with APS to have our officers in school buildings for the safety and security of Akron's students, staff, and faculty."

The SRO issue stemmed from a 2024 incident at Firestone Community Learning Center when an Akron Police Department officer on duty as a Firestone CLC school resource officer tried to get a student to go through a required. metal detector. The officer then [punched a student in the head](#) before arresting him.

The [Akron police auditor concurred](#) with an APD internal investigation that found the SROs' actions were "objectively reasonable" and "legally justified."

## **APS can request the city remove officers**

The school board did not previously approve a contract due to language over who — APS or the city — can remove officers from APS buildings. This new contract allows APS to work with the city, at least initially, to remove officers.

If the board is concerned about an officer, it will discuss those concerns in a confidential meeting with the Akron police chief and the city. If meetings do not resolve the issue, the school board can ask the city to immediately and temporarily remove the officer to a non-student district location.

The board can also request that the Akron police chief permanently remove an officer from all APS locations with no advanced notice.

If the chief decides not to remove the officer, the board can formally request removal with at least a 10-day notice, according to the contract. In this case, the city is required to remove the SRO.

## **Increasing pay scale approved for SROs**

The contract went into effect the moment school board members approved it. It will end after July 31, 2027.

It also allocates \$2.6 million in reimbursed payments to the city for the hourly deployment of officers, who will work normal school hours up to an eight-hour shift.

From Aug. 18 to Dec. 31 of this year, SROs will be paid \$55.82 per hour. Overtime is \$78.09 an hour. The Akron police sergeant overseeing the SRO program will be paid \$62.99 an hour and \$88.81 an hour in overtime.

The pay scales largely increase starting Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2026. Officers will get \$62.57 per hour and \$88.18 in hourly overtime, while the overseeing sergeant will get \$68.20 an hour and \$96.60 in overtime.

From Jan. 1, 2027, through July 31, 2027, pay increases again. Officers will be paid \$67.75 an hour and \$95.93 in hourly overtime. The sergeant will get \$73.95 hourly and \$105.19 in overtime.

*Bryce Buyakie covers courts and public safety for the Beacon Journal. He can be reached by email at [bbuyakie@gannett.com](mailto:bbuyakie@gannett.com) or on X, formerly known as Twitter, [@bryce\\_buyakie](https://twitter.com/bryce_buyakie).*