



February 22, 2022

West Palm Beach - The School District of Palm Beach County, which operates a fully accredited and highly trained police force, has no plans of entering into conversations with any other law enforcement agency regarding a merger. Although the District is down 68 officers, there are currently 248 sworn officers serving in our School District Police Department.

The District is actively recruiting officers. In the meantime, we are supplementing with law enforcement from other agencies as we have in the past during shortages.

It is critical to understand that all 179-District operated campuses have at least one police officer on campus every school day. The District has never, and will never, compromise on the safety and security of our students and staff.

Additionally, the District has conducted a nationwide search for a new, highly-experienced Chief of Police who will build on the District's commitment to ensuring the safety, security, and support of all students and staff. Applications will be reviewed in the coming days, and then the interview process will commence.

The Palm Beach County School District Police Department was created by a Special Legislative Act which authorized the appointment of sworn Police Officers to carry out all Law Enforcement activities throughout the District's schools and facilities.

It was established in 1972 when the School Board made the decision to take a proactive approach to provide safe schools for the students and staff of Palm Beach County. As an integral part of the District's effort to provide a secure environment for learning, our employees are dedicated to the idea that we can make a difference in the lives of Palm

Beach County's children. By placing a greater emphasis on successful crime prevention and diversion programs, we make our schools stronger and our community a better place to live.

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