



Interim Chief of Police Michael Marquez  
San Diego Unified School District Police Department:

“Parents should know our schools will be safe, both now and in the future because of the hard work of our officers, complimented by the outstanding leadership from our partners, the principals and school counselors, who de-escalate difficult situations before they get out of hand.

San Diego is one of the safest large districts in the state, and we will continue to provide students with safe campuses when they return this fall.

School Police officers provide a unique and essential role in our schools. While they serve as law enforcement officers, more importantly, they are campus safety experts, focusing on crime prevention and restorative practices.

Reduction in police staffing is obviously a difficult decision. However, in this instance, we elected not to reduce the number of sworn officers on active duty, as the two police officer positions being cut are currently vacant. Furthermore, the sergeant and detective being eliminated are considered support staff, not assigned directly to school sites.

The final budget for our department will not be approved for another 4 months, but the district is facing an expected budget shortfall of \$124 million. Sadly, that means we may need to eliminate our community service officers, who also serve in a support role.

We will reassess our budget in the spring after the Governor issues his May revisions to the state budget.”