

Considering the Safety Implications and Cost Analysis of Additional Security in Eanes ISD

May 9, 2023



Why Now?

- Fall 2022 events prompted Board to request a study
- Texas Legislature and Governor's emphasis
- Spring 2023 review of security staffing/costs
- More recent tragedies
- Sustainability of TCSO* contract

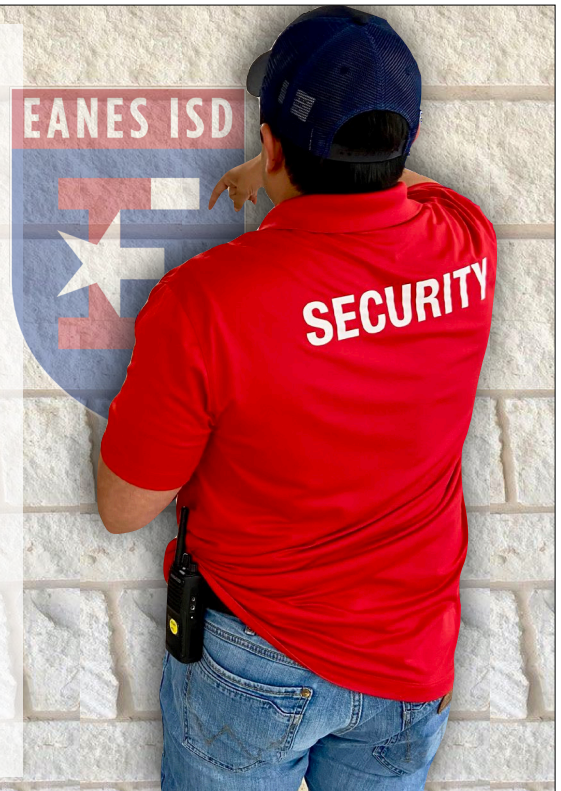
*Travis County Sheriff's Office



Audit Recommendation

“District should consider the possibility of starting [its] own ISD PD. Best practices suggest one SRO per 1000 students. You might consider one SRO at each middle school facility, at least two at the high school, and other officers that rotate among the elementary campuses.”

2023 School Security Audit of Eanes ISD conducted by registered consultant to the Texas School Safety Center



Current Approach

- Two armed TCSO school resource officers at WHS
- Four Eanes ISD civilian security attendants at WHS
- Two Eanes ISD safety directors at middle schools, deployed to other campuses as needed
- Partnership with area agencies



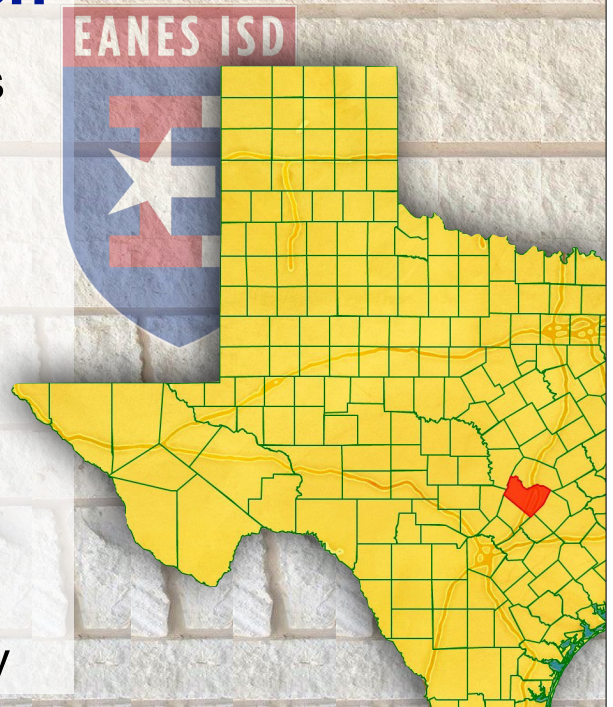
Present TCSO Constraints

- TCSO personnel and equipment costs are increasing yearly, **all of which are paid by Eanes ISD**
- Coverage primarily limited to Westlake High School
- Unavailability of more officers
- Risk of TCSO contract ending with only 60 days notice



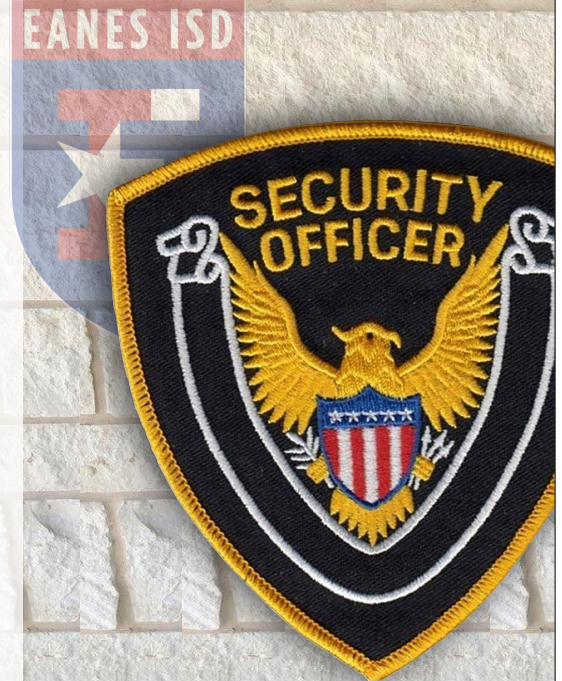
Other Districts' Approach

- Only two high schools in Travis Co. have contracts with TCSO
- As more districts form their own police departments, continuing with TCSO becomes less economical
- 41% of 1,022 Texas districts contract with another agency
- 32% provide their own security



Approaches to Security

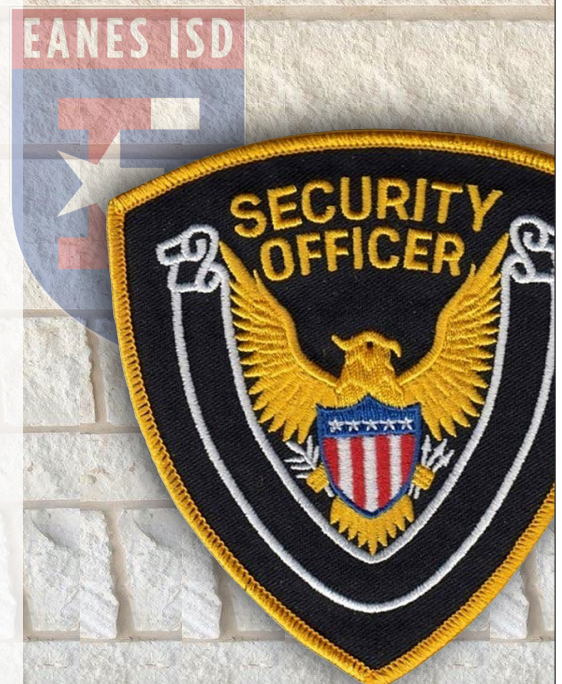
- Programs and staff to support mental health aspects of preemptive school safety
- School Marshals or Guardians
- In-house police force with district-employed officers
- Partnerships with local agencies
- Combined elements of above



Marshals and Guardians

NOTE: Both programs are used mostly by rural school districts

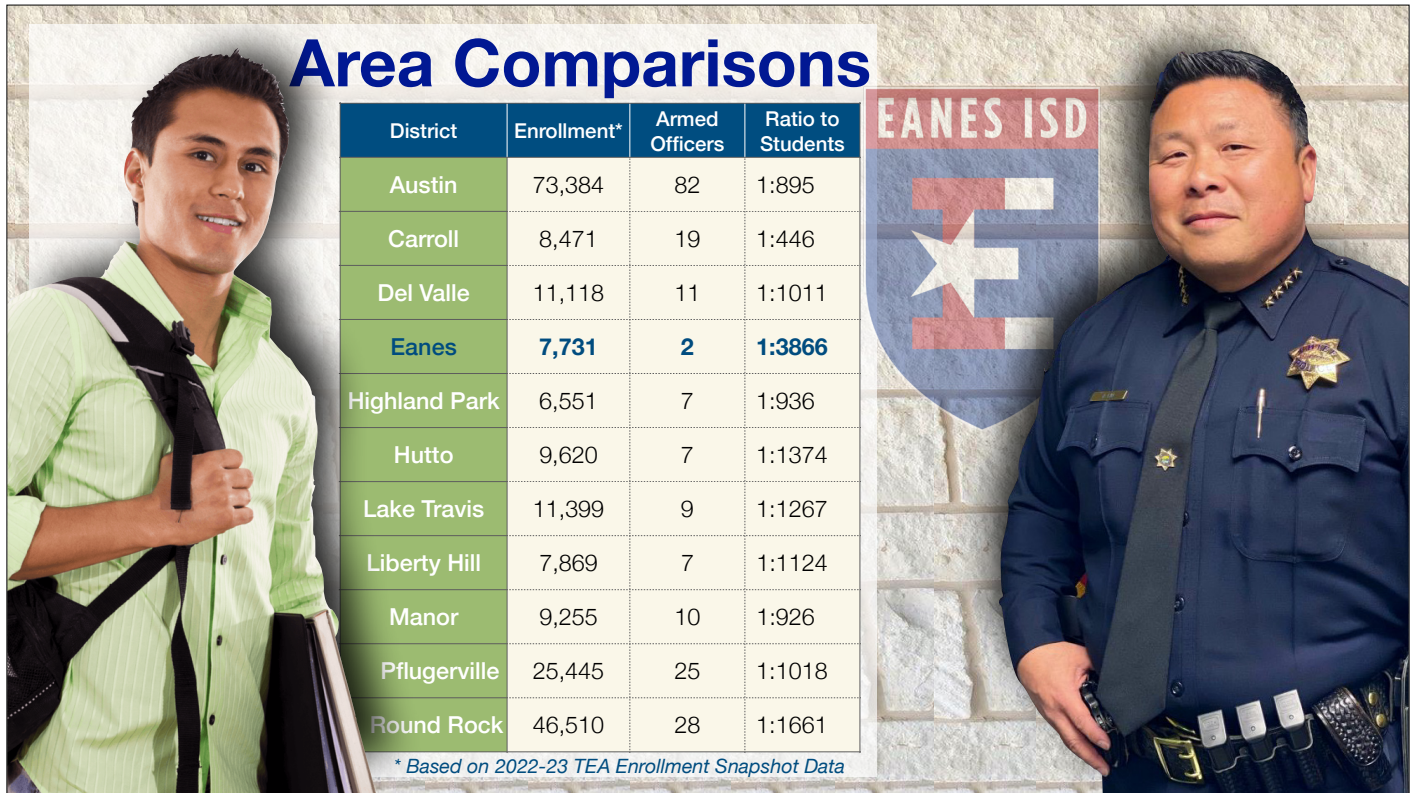
- **School Marshal program**
 - 7% of Texas districts at start of 2022-23
 - allows trained civilians to carry guns
 - longer to implement due to requirements
- **School Guardian program**
 - 27% of Texas districts at start of 2022-23
 - can adhere to or exceed requirements of Marshal program
 - easier to implement in a transitional plan



Area Comparisons

District	Enrollment*	Armed Officers	Ratio to Students
Austin	73,384	82	1:895
Carroll	8,471	19	1:446
Del Valle	11,118	11	1:1011
Eanes	7,731	2	1:3866
Highland Park	6,551	7	1:936
Hutto	9,620	7	1:1374
Lake Travis	11,399	9	1:1267
Liberty Hill	7,869	7	1:1124
Manor	9,255	10	1:926
Pflugerville	25,445	25	1:1018
Round Rock	46,510	28	1:1661

** Based on 2022-23 TEA Enrollment Snapshot Data*



A Comparable District

- Highland Park ISD in Dallas
- Similar demographics
- Hybrid between district-employed officers and officers provided **and paid for** by local municipalities
- Armed security on all seven campuses, including five elementary schools



Budget Implications

Expenses	Current Model	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
	Current Annual Costs	Chief, 6 officers, 4 civilian staff	Chief, 10 officers, 4 civilian staff
2 TCSO Officers	\$ 391,000	—	—
Eanes ISD Personnel	\$ 544,000	\$1,232,000	\$1,557,000
TOTAL	\$ 935,000	\$1,232,000	\$1,557,000
Increased Net Expenses (Annual M&O)	—	\$ 297,000	\$ 622,000
Additional One-Time First-Year Costs (Startup/Supplies)*	—	\$ 525,000	\$ 834,000

**Could be partly funded from bond proceeds, donations or possible grants*



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Scenario 1

EANES ISD

Possible



Area Comparisons

Scenario 2

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EANES ISD

Possible

Focus on Mental Health

- Adding three school-based therapists to fully cover elementary and middle schools
- Mental health staff and police officers can work directly with one another to support students
- Current ratio of students to all mental health professionals in Eanes ISD is 1:184

EANES ISD

Decisions and Timelines

- Understand community values
- Determine budget implications
- Identify reasonable timeline
- Adopt new Board policy
- Apply to TCOLE
- Recruit highly qualified officers
- Commission officers



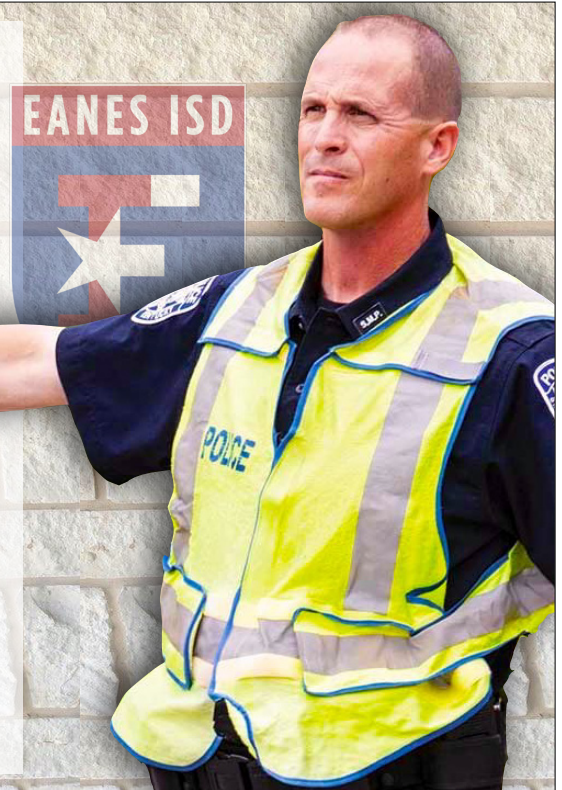
Emerging Legislation

- **House Bill 3**
 - provides \$100 per ADA plus \$15,000 per campus through the School Safety Allotment
 - requires purchase of specified technology from a state-approved vendor
 - mandates armed security personnel at every campus



Other Duties as Assigned

- Respond to critical incidents
- Support mental health initiatives and connect with resources
- Direct traffic and serve as crossing guards
- Monitor campus activities
- Conduct safety audits
- Train and assist staff



Questions & Discussion

