



## ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
420 West State Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288  
815-987-5800

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHET EPPERSON  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# INFORMATION RELEASE

**DATE & TIME**      **09/09/11 11:28 AM**

**Bureau:**              **Administrative Services Bureau**

**Authorized Supervisor:**    **Deputy Chief Michael Booker**

**Phone:**                **815/987/5810**

**Incident:**              **Grant Announcement**

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## MESSAGE

On September 7, 2011, the Rockford Police Department received confirmation through United States Congressman Don Manzullo's office, of a \$50,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant which will be used to enhance student safety in Rockford Public Schools.

Rockford Police and Rockford Public School District #205 (RPS) submitted this joint application to increase the safety at our schools. RPS is the third largest school district in Illinois, responsible for 49 schools, emergency and crisis management for over 43,000 students and staff, and has 49 buildings (34 elementary, 6 middle, 5 high, 2 alternative schools, and 2 admin buildings). This program is completely centered on building relationships and solving problems.

RPS contracts with the Rockford Police Department to fund twelve sworn officers and one sergeant to be permanently located in the schools. By having presence in the schools, the officers are able to address attendance and behavioral issues in a timely manner. When a student is in crisis, the school-based officers are readily accessible to assist with conflicts that arise from the community, home, and schools settings, which allow the student to then focus on their educational needs. School-based services allow the officers to build relationships which are critical when addressing risk behaviors that lead to delinquent acts. If all are working together properly, a holistic plan is in place to support the student's safety and education.

The project goal is to increase security and safety of the students and staff at Rockford public schools. Funding was requested for bus cameras, visitor management system, computers for police use, indoor and outdoor security cameras, and de-escalation training. These funds will enhance the student and faculty safety.

Questions may be referred to Deputy Chief Michael Booker at 815/987-5810 or Rockford Public Schools Director of Security Services, Fred Diehl at 815/966-3083

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