



Invitation for Law Enforcement to Engage with Students with Autism

Dear Members of Law Enforcement

I hope this message finds you well. Our school is dedicated to providing a supportive and inclusive environment for all our students, including those on the autism spectrum.

Consistent with Autism New Jersey's statewide Law Enforcement Initiative (www.autismnj.org/LE), we believe that fostering a positive relationship between our students with autism and local law enforcement is crucial for building trust and ensuring safety. To this end, we would like to invite officers from your department to visit our school and engage with our students in a friendly, supportive setting.

The first meeting is particularly important as it sets the tone for future interactions. A positive initial experience can significantly ease the anxiety that might arise during emergencies, making both the individual and the officer feel more comfortable and confident in their interactions. Our goal is to create a foundation of familiarity and trust that will benefit both our students and your officers.

During the visit, we would like to arrange for a few activities that allow for positive interactions, such as:

- A short presentation by the officers about their role in the community.
- A tour of a police car, allowing students to see and touch the equipment in a calm environment.
- A Q&A session where students can ask questions in a safe and supportive setting.
- With parental consent, a conversational about individual students' skills, challenges, and safety concerns.

We are flexible with the date and time of the visit and will do our best to accommodate your schedule. Please let us know what works best for your team.

We appreciate your consideration of this invitation and look forward to the opportunity to work together to support our students. Thank you for the vital role you play in our community.

Warm regards,