



COUNTY OF KALKASKA

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

**P. O. Box 1119 – 605 North Birch Street
KALKASKA, MICHIGAN 49646
(231) 258-8686**

**PATRICK J. WHITEFORD
SHERIFF**

**HARRY R. SHIPP
UNDERSHERIFF**

IMMEDIATE USE PRESS RELEASE

TYPE: Reallocated Position – School Security Officer

DATE OF RELEASE: March 8, 2018

Effective March 5, 2018, the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office will re-assign one of the five general complaint cars from our midnight shifts to a School Security position. The intent of this position is to provide presence and visibility at each of our seven school buildings in the county via random patrols and appearances throughout each school day.

The deputy assigned to this position will be tasked with contacting each school to inquire about immediate or future safety concerns. This officer will be expected to respond to emergent complaints while present at the school. In-depth investigations will continue to require a call to Central Dispatch for general complaint assignment.

Sheriff Whiteford reports that in light of the recent school and other threats of violence within our state and nation, he felt it necessary to provide additional attention to our schools. Sheriff Whiteford states, "I realize that removing a deputy from our road patrol creates a safety risk for my remaining midnight shift; however, my entire staff agrees that the safety and security of our children and schools is our priority as we grieve over other recent fatal school shootings."

Sheriff Whiteford also stated that he is partnering with school administration, county officials and community/business leaders to work towards long term sustainable strategies and solutions to school violence.