



Florida Department of
Law Enforcement


Richard L. Swearingen
Commissioner

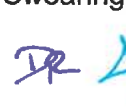
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Nikki Fried, *Commissioner of Agriculture*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 8, 2020

TO: Commissioner Rick Swearingen 

VIA: Chain of Command 

FROM: SAS Daniel Augustyniak

SUBJECT: 2019 Annual D.A.R.E. Report

This annual report is provided in accordance with FDLE Policy 4.7: Juveniles and details activities associated with FDLE's efforts regarding the administration of the D.A.R.E. program across the state. FDLE serves as the state training center and program administrator for Florida's D.A.R.E. program. This administration includes preparation and oversight of the budget, training and certification of officers. Additionally, FDLE is responsible for ensuring compliance with national standards, delivery of technical assistance and providing statewide program management.

Since 2016, FDLE has facilitated seven D.A.R.E. Instructor certification courses, certifying over 160 D.A.R.E. instructors. From 2016 to 2019, the D.A.R.E. program was taught in over 930 elementary schools across the state, delivering the program to over 145,000 students statewide. Currently approximately 40 law enforcement agencies participate in the D.A.R.E. program in the state of Florida.

In July 2019, FDLE conducted the D.A.R.E. officer training course hosted in conjunction with the Marion County Sheriff's Office. This 84th D.A.R.E. class consisted of 30 law enforcement officers from Florida. These officers were provided with the D.A.R.E. training, which is designed to help elementary school students resist peer pressure to experiment with alcohol and other drugs. Gang and violence prevention strategies are also included in the curriculum to provide a more solid foundation.

In January 2019, the D.A.R.E. coordinator accepted another position within FDLE. This vacancy was filled in early 2020. In the coming year, the new D.A.R.E. coordinator will be tasked with conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the D.A.R.E. program across the state. Participating agencies and current practitioners will be verified and communications with the national governing body – D.A.R.E. America - will be enhanced.

It is recommended that FDLE continue to support D.A.R.E. initiatives in the coming year. Recommendations or modifications regarding FDLE's involvement in this program will be made in 2021 following the 2020 evaluation.