



Florida Department of  
Law Enforcement

Richard L. Swearingen  
*Commissioner*

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Nikki Fried, *Commissioner of Agriculture*

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 31, 2021

TO: Commissioner Rick Swearingen 

VIA: Chain of Command 

FROM: Inspector David Bullard   
D.A.R.E. Coordinator

SUBJECT: Drug Abuse and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) 2020 Annual 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 the D.A.R.E. program in Florida. This administration includes preparation and oversight of the budget, training and certification of officers and preparation of the Annual D.A.R.E. report. Additionally, FDLE is responsible for ensuring compliance with national standards, delivery of technical assistance and providing statewide program management.

As a result of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), classes for D.A.R.E. Officer Training (DOT) in calendar year 2020 had to be canceled in Florida, as well as for the majority of the United States. Currently, there is a DOT class tentatively scheduled for July 12-23, 2021, in Fort Lauderdale.

D.A.R.E. continues to be a law enforcement officer-led series of classroom lessons that teach children from kindergarten through high school how to make good decisions and wise choices. According to D.A.R.E. America, D.A.R.E. programs are in over 70 percent of school districts nationally, and has been implemented in more than 50 countries. The training is designed to provide alcohol and drug awareness and facts to elementary and middle school students. Gang and violence prevention strategies are also included in the curriculum to provide a more solid foundation.

The last Florida offered DOT training was in July 2019, at the Marion County Sheriff's Office. That class was the 84<sup>th</sup> DOT class and consisted of 30 law enforcement officers from Florida agencies. Currently, Florida has 55 agencies currently participating in D.A.R.E. Thirteen agencies are scheduled to attend the July 2021 DOT training.

In 2020, Florida agencies reported teaching at 133 elementary schools and instructing 12,751 students. For additional information, please see the attached D.A.R.E. 2020 Annual Statistics.

Attachment



