

2015-2018 Use of Force Report

ROSEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Roseville Police Department

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2015-2018 Use of Force Summary Report

Publication Date: February 28, 2019



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF RICK MATHWIG

The Roseville Police Department and its officers recognize our authority comes from the people we serve. We have a social contract with our community and rely on its consent to carry out our public safety duties to our fullest potential. People will believe we are there to serve them if we are fair, kind, caring, and compassionate and our actions match our words. The public's trust is critical to the stability of our city, the safety of the people we serve, and the criminal justice system.

The Roseville Police Department has been gathering data on uses of force and internally using the information to examine our practices for many years. Tracking how, when, where, and why officers use force is an invaluable tool in working towards the Department's goal of minimizing force incidents and injuries while maximizing officer effectiveness in situations where force is unavoidable.

The goals of the Use of Force Data Initiative are to increase transparency and provide better context to the limited data that was previously captured. Minnesota does not require police departments to collect or disseminate use of force data. While researching published use of force data available from across the country, it was evident that not all law enforcement agencies track force incidents in the same way as the Roseville Police Department. In fact, some agencies do not list officers pointing—and not discharging—firearms as uses of force. The pointing of a firearm is a use of force that the Roseville Police Department has been reporting internally for decades. Comparing multiple agencies' uses of force data requires careful consideration of all factors.

Use of force data collection will be an on-going practice, with results posted on our website on an annual basis. The Roseville Police Department will continue to examine its uses of force with the goal of minimizing force incidents, when possible, and without jeopardizing the safety of everyone involved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Mathwig".

Chief Rick Mathwig

QUICK FACTS AND FINDINGS

FACTS

- Although many departments do not designate the mere pointing of a firearms as a reportable force incident, the Roseville Police Department (RPD) requires officers to document every instance in which an officer points their firearm in the direction of an individual. The department also classifies both the presence of a police canine during an apprehension and the pointing of a Taser as reportable force actions.
- In 2018, the entire Roseville Policy Manual, including the Use of Force Policy, was reviewed and updated. The revised Use of Force Policy emphasizes the importance of de-escalation and protecting the sanctity of every life. In a commitment to transparency, the policy manual has been posted on the police department's [website](#).

- Supervisors are expected to respond to all scenes involving substantial force. All force incidents also require a comprehensive supervisor review.
- All Roseville Police Department scenario-based training includes situations that require officers to demonstrate effective communication skills to safely engage with, de-escalate, and gain compliance from subjects who are in crisis or are non-compliant.
- In 2018, all officers were trained in the use of less-than-lethal launchers, which have been used successfully in the field when deadly force could have been legally justified.

FINDINGS

- Between 2015 and 2018, RPD responded to a total of 148,205 calls for service. No force was used in 99.51% of all the incidents in which Roseville officers responded.
- Between 2015 and 2018, RPD internally investigated nine excessive use of force complaints. In six of the incidents, officers were found justified in the force used. Three allegations were sustained.
- In cases where officers used physical force on a subject, the most common force types were escort holds and joint manipulations.
- Between 2015 and 2018, RPD experienced one officer-involved shooting incident. A grand jury found the officers' actions were justified.
- The average age of the known subjects of force was approximately 30 years old.
- Approximately 74% of the subjects of force were male and 21% were female (remaining subjects unknown).
- From 2015 to 2017, the Roseville Police Department had three canine teams. In 2018, the unit was reduced to two canine teams. Between 2015 and 2018, the canines made a total of three physical apprehensions.
- Less than 5% of the subjects of force sustained a documented injury.

For several years, the Roseville Police Department has worked to improve reporting requirements to help provide a more comprehensive analysis of when and how force was being used. It is important to note, the current Record Management System (RMS) has limited capacity in the data collection and retrieval process, which makes providing comprehensive and in-depth findings and analysis challenging. Recognizing the importance of this data, the Roseville Police Department is working to ensure use of force data is collected in a way that allows for future comprehensive and in-depth analysis.

The information contained in this report is the Roseville Police Department's best effort to collect and summarize the use of force data; however, errors do exist based on reporting and retrieval limitations of the RMS data, technical reporting issues, changes in department reporting procedures, and data collected based solely on officers' perception (e.g. race and sex of subject). The information was collected from multiple sources, including the RMS, officer reports, squad videos, booking records, and Ramsey County Emergency Communication Center dispatch records.

OVERVIEW

USE OF FORCE POLICY

In 2018, the entire Roseville Policy Manual, including the Use of Force Policy, was reviewed and updated. The revised Use of Force Policy emphasizes the importance of de-escalation and protecting the sanctity of every life. In our continued commitment to transparency, the policy manual has been posted on the police department's [website](#). The Roseville Police Department Policy Manual states:

The Roseville Police Department allows its members to only exercise the authority granted to them by law. While this department recognizes the power of peace officers to make arrests and take other enforcement action, officers are encouraged to use sound discretion in the enforcement of the law. The department does not tolerate abuse of law enforcement authority.

The Roseville Police Department values and respects the sanctity of every life. It is the Roseville Police Department's expectation officers will make reasonable use of force decisions that demonstrate our value of every life.

Police officers have been entrusted with special powers and authority by state statute to achieve their mission of preserving the peace, providing protection and security to the public, and enforcing criminal laws. These powers are unique to the police and are not possessed by the general public. With this grant of public trust, police officers are obligated to exercise their powers judicially, and with appropriate restraint.

Police use of force can be defined as an amount of effort required by police to compel compliance of an unwilling subject, or, alternatively, a physical act by an officer that compels a person to do something. All situations where a Roseville officer uses force are documented and reviewed by a supervisor.

USE OF FORCE OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING

The Roseville Police Department is committed to ensuring that all uses of force are justified and within department policy. Below are some of the measures in place to ensure that any force used by officers is reasonable and within department policy, as well as state and federal laws:

- In 2018, all members of the Roseville Police Department began wearing body worn cameras. Officers are required to activate their body worn cameras when responding to all calls for service and during all law enforcement related activities. Officers are required to activate their body worn camera prior to any use of force.
- The Roseville Police Department mandates the completion of an incident report whenever any type of force is used by an officer.
- Supervisors are required to review all incidents involving any level of force used by officers. A comprehensive review of the officers’ reports, witness statements, dispatch information, body worn camera footage, squad video, and any other available information is required as part of the supervisor review. Any potential policy violations are investigated through the formal internal affairs investigation process.
- All supervisors review officers’ respective use of force data on a quarterly basis.

USE OF FORCE COMPLAINTS

The Roseville Police Department seriously considers all excessive use of force complaints and investigates all complaints brought against officers. Complaints can be filed by the public or can be initiated by the department. [Complaint forms](#) are accessible on the department website, at the police department front counter, or can be provided upon request. The table below represents allegations of excessive use of force complaints against Roseville officers from 2015 to 2018 and the outcome of the investigations.

Excessive Use of Force Complaints	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Number of Complaints	1	5	1	2
Total Number of Sustained Complaints	0	3	0	0

Figure 1- Use of Force Complaints

A detailed account of all complaints filed against Roseville officers are reported annually to the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and are posted on the department [website](#).

USE OF FORCE TRAINING

In President Obama’s [Final Report on 21st Century Policing](#), one of the six pillars of effective policing focused on the importance of training and education. The Roseville Police Department places a strong emphasis on continuing education to ensure officers remain proficient in a wide variety of areas, including appropriate use of force, communication, decision making, crisis intervention, procedural justice, and cultural sensitivity.

In 2018, Roseville officers completed over 5,000 hours of combined training. Below is a summary of some of the training that officers undergo on a regular and ongoing basis:

- The Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requires agencies conduct yearly training on use of force. Officers must demonstrate proficiency in integrating communication skills when safe and feasible as well as in tactical de-escalation strategies in volatile situations.
- The Roseville Police Department conducts scenario-based training several times throughout the year. The training emphasizes using time and distance to de-escalate situations. Each training includes scenarios that require officers to demonstrate effective communication skills to safely engage with, de-escalate, and gain compliance from subjects who are in crisis or non-compliant.
- In 2017, the Minnesota legislature passed [Minn. Stat. § 626.8469](#) that requires all police officers complete on-going training in crisis-intervention, conflict management, and diversity/implicit bias.
- By mid-2018, all Roseville officers went through a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training or its equivalent. All new officers are required to attend CIT training after completing their field training program.
- In 2018, all officers were trained in the use of less-than-lethal launchers, which have been used successfully in the field when deadly force could have been legally justified.
- Department leaders and Roseville use of force instructors recently participated in the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) [Integrated Communications, Assessment, and Tactics \(ICAT\) training](#).¹ The mission of the training is to reinforce the core value of the sanctity of human life and promote officer safety by integrating skills and strategies related to decision making, crisis recognition, tactical communications, and safety tactics.

Training by Category - 2018

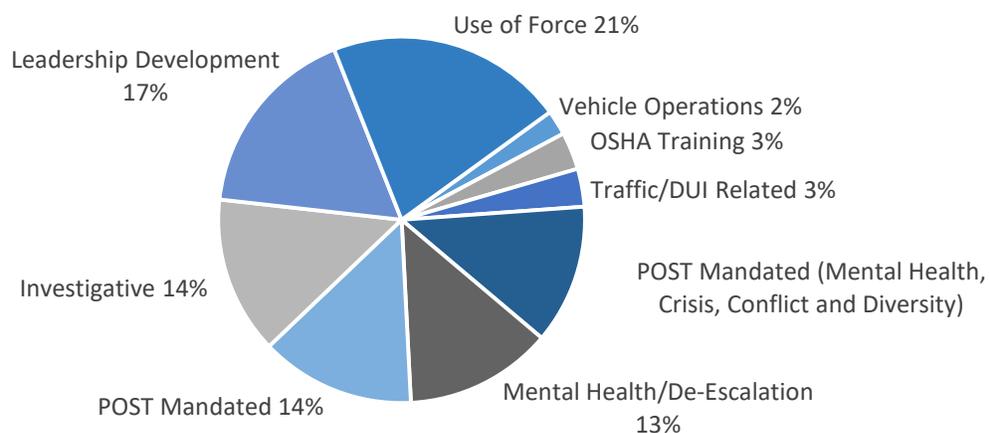


Figure 2 - Training by Category 2018

USE OF FORCE FINDINGS

USE OF FORCE DEFINED

Roseville Police policy defines force as the application of physical techniques or tactics, chemical agents, or weapons to another person to gain compliance. It is not considered a use of force when a person allows themselves to be searched, escorted, handcuffed, or restrained. When completing their reports, officers must classify the type of force they used (e.g. escort hold, take-downs, joint manipulation, strikes, canine apprehension, pointing of gun, lethal force) and the number of force actions.

Some classifications are not an actual physical application of force. Although many departments do not designate the mere pointing of a firearm as a reportable use of force, the Roseville Police Department requires officers to document

¹ Police Executive Research Forum <https://perf.memberclicks.net/icat-training-guide>

every instance in which they point their firearm in the direction of an individual. The Roseville Police Department designates the following non-contact actions as force actions:

- Apprehension involving the presence of a police canine
- Pointing a Taser at an individual
- Pointing a firearm at an individual

USE OF FORCE DATA

There are several different ways to report and analyze use of force data. For this summary, the following data definitions were used:

- Force Incident – This refers to a call for service in which responding officer(s) used some amount of force.
- Force Action – This refers to each unique application of force during a single incident. In one force incident, multiple force actions may be used. Two officers placing an individual in an escort hold would result in two force actions, but one force incident. This would also be the case if an officer used multiple force actions on one individual during an incident.
- Force Subject – This refers to subject a force action was applied to. If two people had to be physically restrained during an incident, the data would reflect a single force incident, but two force subjects and two force actions.
- Force Type – This refers to the classification of force actions used during a force incident (e.g. escort holds, joint manipulation, pointing of a firearm).

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE AND FORCE INCIDENTS BY YEAR

Between 2015 and 2018, the Roseville Police Department handled a total of 148,205 calls for service.² In 99.51% of all the incidents Roseville officers responded to, officers did not have to use any amount of force. Below is a summary of the total number of calls for service officers responded to and the total number of resulting force incidents each year.

Total Calls for Service and Use of Force Incidents	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Calls for Service	33,619	36,057	36,444	42,085
Total Force Incidents	187	188	173	175
Percentage of Incidents without Force Used	99.44%	99.47%	99.53%	99.58%
Percentage of Incidents with Force Used	.56%	.53%	.47%	.42%

Figure 3 - Total Incidents and Force Incidents

FORCE ACTIONS AND FORCE TYPES

Some incidents may involve multiple force actions and force types. For example, if three officers performed a felony stop on a stolen vehicle, resulting in two officers pointing their handguns and one officer pointing their Taser at the occupants, it would be considered three force actions and two force types (two pointed firearms actions and one Taser pointing action). Additionally, if an officer applied both an escort hold and a joint manipulation during an incident, it would be considered two force actions and two force types.

² Total calls for service includes all police incident reports, including 911 calls, field-generated, investigative, and administrative related incidents. LETG RMS (January 2019). Case Records. Roseville, MN.

Force Types and Number of Force Actions	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Aerosol Subject Restraint (ASR)	1	4	3	6	14
Escorts/Come Alongs	33	32	68	44	177
Gun – Lethal	0	2	0	0	2
Gun – Pointed	185	221	197	249	852
Kicks/Knee Strikes	13	16	13	15	57
Impact Weapon – ASP (Baton)	0	1	0	0	1
Joint Manipulations/Pins	39	64	80	95	278
K9 – Apprehension by Presence	14	21	13	28	76
K9 – Apprehension by Bite	0	1	0	2	3
Less Lethal – Bean Bags, Pepperball, Other	1	5	1	16	23
Punches/Empty Hand Strikes	4	8	5	7	24
Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT)	7	2	1	10	20
Taser – Drive Stun	5	2	5	4	16
Taser – Pointed	45	44	35	40	164
Taser – Probe Deployed	13	9	16	18	56
Take Down	43	36	38	28	145
Total Use of Force Actions	403	468	475	562	1908

Figure 4 - Types of Force Used

Firearms Pointing

Although many police departments do not designate the pointing of a firearm as a force action, the Roseville Police Department requires officers document every instance in which an officer points their firearm in the direction of an individual. The department recognizes the seriousness of pointing a firearm at a person and, therefore, all firearm pointings are classified as a force action and reviewed by a supervisor. Officers are not required to document situations where they un-holster their firearm but do not point it in the direction of a person.

An analysis and review of police incidents from 2015 to 2018 showed most common situations when officers pointed their weapons were during the following incidents:

- Felony violent crimes
- Felony stops
- Fleeing police in a motor vehicle
- Stolen vehicles
- Burglaries
- Incidents involving an armed suspect

Canine Apprehensions

Between 2015 and 2017, the Roseville Police Department had three canine teams. In 2018, the unit was reduced to two canine teams, both assigned the night shift. Canine officers are required to document both physical apprehensions and presence apprehensions (no physical contact). Between 2015 and 2018, there were a total of three physical canine apprehensions.

In 2018, the Roseville Police Canine Policy was reviewed and several changes were implemented. The updated policy dictates a canine may be used to locate and apprehend a suspect only when a canine handler reasonably believes:

- An individual has committed a serious offense.
- The suspect poses an imminent threat of violence or serious harm to the public, any officer, or the handler.
- The suspect is physically resisting or threatening to resist arrest and the use of a canine reasonably appears to be necessary to overcome such resistance.
- The suspect is concealed in an area where entry by anyone other than the canine would pose a threat to the safety of officers or the public.

The updated policy also outlines when canines cannot be used. The use of a canine to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor crime is prohibited unless the suspect poses an imminent threat to officers or others. Situations include apprehending a person solely because they are a suspect in a theft, shoplifting cases, narcotics sales, human trafficking, and burglary of a vacant building.

Deadly Force Defined

Minnesota Statute states the use of deadly force by a peace officer is justified in the following circumstances ([Minn. Stat. § 609.066](#)):

- To protect the police officer or another individual from apparent death or great bodily harm.
- To effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the peace officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of deadly force.
- To effect the arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or great bodily harm if the person's apprehension is delayed.

Deadly Force Incident

Between 2015 and 2018, the Roseville Police Department experienced one officer-involved shooting incident. Below is a summary of the incident:

On February 10, 2016, officers responded to a welfare check in the 1600 block of County Road B after neighbors reported hearing a loud and ongoing disturbance. Through the door, officers had a brief conversation with a male, who claimed he had been robbed. The male refused to open the door or talk with officers. Concerned for the safety of the resident(s) and fearing that someone was being held against their will, officers entered the residence.

Officers located a male hiding in the closet. When officers ordered the person to surrender, he opened the closet and stabbed a police canine in the head with a kitchen knife. Two Roseville Police Officers fired their duty-weapons after the male "lurched out" of the closet towards the officers.

The case was investigated by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. A Ramsey County Grand Jury ultimately concluded the two officers were legally justified in using deadly force.

SUBJECT INJURY

In use of force incidents between 2015 and 2018, fewer than 5% of the subjects of force sustained a documented injury. Of the total 889 subjects of force, 40 sustained some type of injury and one individual's injury was fatal (see summary below). Department policy requires medical assistance for any person with a visible injury or expressing an injury complaint. All subject injuries resulting from any type of force require a report by the officer and incident review by a supervisor.

OVERVIEW

Comparisons of the demographics of force subjects can be difficult because some force incidents involve subjects who may not have been taken into custody or identified (e.g. suspects fleeing from a stolen vehicle or the use of aerosol subject restraints (ASR or “mace”) to bring a group of people under control). Demographic figures may vary from other data in the report based on what information was captured. In some cases, some information may have been known and recorded; however, additional data may not have been known or documented (e.g. officer may have noted that it was a male that fled from a vehicle, but the officer did not know the subject’s age because the individual was not identified).

The Roseville Police Department’s Record Management System presented limitations in supporting this research. Thus the information below was gathered using a number of different sources. The data summary is the department’s best effort to strive for consistency and provide accurate information on various known demographics of force subjects.

AGE OF KNOWN FORCE SUBJECTS

The known force subjects’ average age was approximately 30 years old. The youngest force subjects were 9 years old—three separate incidents involved police responding to 911 calls at schools for of out-of-control students. In each case, officers placed the juveniles into an escort hold or restrained them to prevent them from harming themselves, school staff, or the officers. The oldest force subject was an 85-year-old memory care patient who was combative towards officers as he attempted to flee from a nursing facility in a vehicle.

Use of Force by Age of Known Subject	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
17 and under	20	22	43	18	103
18 - 19	7	17	15	7	46
20 – 29	72	68	66	75	281
30 - 39	43	65	56	68	232
40 - 49	35	24	23	32	114
50 - 59	15	8	8	11	42
60 and older	9	2	0	4	15
Total	201	206	211	215	833

Figure 5 - Use of Force by Age of Known Subject

RACE OF KNOWN FORCE SUBJECTS

Because of limitations with the Roseville Police Record Management System and due to changes in race coding schemes, race data prior to 2018 is difficult to accurately compare to contemporary data sets. Department personnel are actively working through previous years’ data sets to reconcile race codes and hope to present race data for 2015-2017 in the near future.³

³ Race data for this report was pulled from a variety of databases and sources, depending on whether an individual was identified, detained, arrested, or criminally charged. The data sources have differing race reporting requirements, which have changed over time due to BCA, FBI, and RMS race reporting options and requirements.

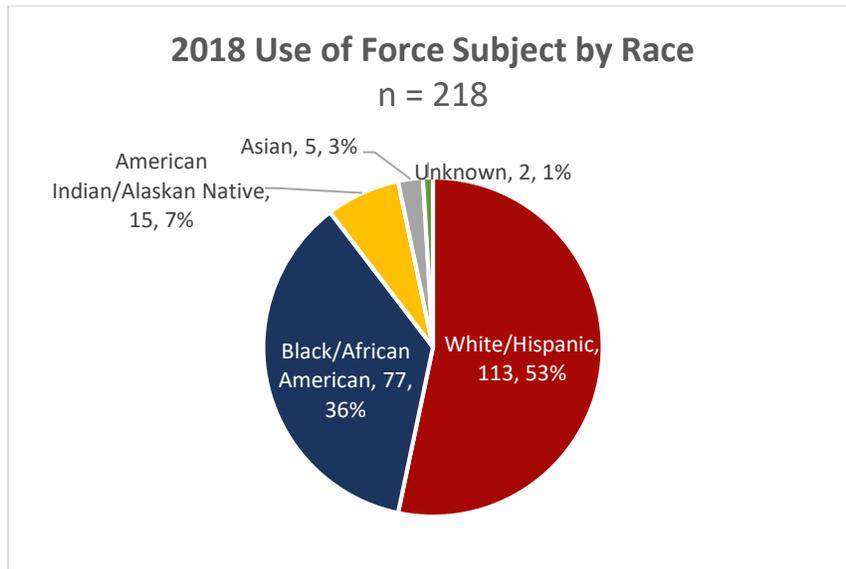


Figure 6 - Race of Known Force Subject by Race

SEX OF KNOWN FORCE SUBJECTS

Each year, males were more likely than females to be force subjects. Between 2015 and 2018, 21% of subjects of force were female and 73% were male.

Force Subjects by Sex	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Female	39	52	56	38	185
Male	163	153	155	178	649

Figure 7 - Force Subjects by Sex

DEMOGRAPHICS

ROSEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The Roseville Police Department strives to create a workforce that embodies a broad range of diversity—including by race, gender, language fluency, life experience, and cultural background—to build greater trust and legitimacy with the community we serve. In 2019, the Roseville City Council adopted a resolution approving the [City of Roseville's Police Department's Commitment to Diversity Staffing Program](#), which is focused on increasing the diversity of the department, with an emphasis on creating opportunities for ethnic minorities and women to overcome barriers to employment in the law enforcement field.

The Roseville Police Department has a total of 63 full-time and part-time employees. Below is a summary of the 2019 Roseville Police Department's demographics.

Department Demographics	Sworn Officers	All Police Staff
Total Number of Employees	48	63
Persons of Color	9	13
Females	7	17

Figure 8 - Roseville Police Department Demographics (as of 2/28/2019)

CITY DEMOGRAPHICS

The most recent census of Roseville was conducted in 2010. The 2010 Census showed the City of Roseville had a population of 33,660, with 20.7% of the population being persons of color.⁴ Since 2000, the City of Roseville has undergone a number of noteworthy changes that have affected the demographics of the city. The United States Census Bureau estimated that in 2017, 24.6% of Roseville residents were persons of color.⁵ The biggest racial and ethnic groups were African American, Hispanic, and Asian. In addition to Roseville residents, it is estimated that approximately 36,000 people travel into the city daily to work.⁶ More details on Roseville's demographics can be found on the [City of Roseville's Economic Development webpage](#).

According to the Roseville Area Schools⁷ [2018 Demographic Report](#), White students constituted 43% of the enrollment and 57% identified as persons of color. Asian students accounted for 20% of the total student body, Black students for 16%, and Hispanic students for 14%.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Roseville Police Department values and respects the sanctity of every life—the lives of the people we serve and the lives of police officers. We will continue to ensure that only force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control is used to protect the lives and safety of the members of the public and the officers. We will continue to collaborate with community members to develop policies and strategies to ensure we continue to provide impartial and unbiased policing and enforce laws in a fair and equitable manner.

The Roseville Police Department is committed to transparency and accountability. Use of Force Summary Reports will be published annually.

⁴ United States Census Bureau <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

⁵ United States Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rosevillecityminnesota.US/PST045218>

⁶ ESRI, 2017-07-03 <http://www.growroseville.com/roseville/site-selectors/community-profile/>

⁷ Roseville Area Schools District boundaries extend into portions of other cities, including Maplewood, Little Canada, Shoreview, & St. Paul.