



The SRO Roles and Responsibilities



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Instructional Objectives

- ✓ Explore how community policing works in the school context
- ✓ Define the roles of the SRO as a community liaison, as a problem solver, as an educator, and as a safety specialist
- ✓ Discuss the organization of schools
- ✓ Discuss the importance of the MOU in your partnership
- ✓ Identify program opportunities for the SRO
- ✓ Emphasize the value of program assessment and evaluation

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Question??

What is a
School Resource Officer ?



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Activity



Work in groups to answer the question...

What does a
School Resource Officer do ?

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COPS Office Definition

A School Resource Officer is a career law enforcement professional, with sworn authority, deployed in community oriented policing, assigned by the employing police department or agency to work in a collaboration with schools and community-based organizations to:

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(Definition continued)

- Address crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around an elementary or secondary school
- Develop or expand crime prevention efforts for students
- Educate likely school-age victims in crime prevention and safety
- Develop or expand community justice initiatives for students

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(Definition continued)

- Train students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, and crime awareness
- Assist in the identification of physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in or around the school, and
- Assist in developing school policy that addresses crime and recommend procedural change

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Consider this...

On any given day, nearly 25 percent of the population in your community is present in school.

The school is a microcosm of the community.



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COPS in Schools SRO Roles

Community Liaison

Problem Solver

Educator

Safety Specialist



Community Liaison

- ✓ Establish links to the community
- ✓ Know your key community resources:
 - Mental health services
 - Substance abuse assessment and treatment
 - Child protective services
 - Runaway shelters, domestic violence services
 - Family counseling services
 - Youth development organizations (both school based and community based)
 - Matters of Homeland Security

Being a Community Liaison

Requires SROs to:

- ✓ Build positive relationships throughout the school community
- ✓ Involve community members in solving crime, violence and disruptive behavior problems
- ✓ Share responsibility and resources for crafting workable solutions to problems that detract from school safety and security

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Student Relationships



Daily interactions with students serve:

- ✓ To reduce stereotypes
- ✓ To promote crime preventive
- ✓ To foster trust and open communication

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The SRO: A Positive Example/Mentor

- ✓ Sets clear limits
- ✓ Sets a good example
- ✓ Is honest
- ✓ Is consistent
- ✓ Encourages responsibility
- ✓ Shows respect
- ✓ Advocates for what is right, fair and just for kids



Activity

Identify ways to establish a positive rapport with students.



Ways to be a Positive Role Model

- ✓ Maintain a professional appearance
- ✓ Be visible, positive & accessible
- ✓ Participate in & support school functions
- ✓ Maintain positive relationships
- ✓ Keep your promises



Community Liaison

What might be barriers to fulfilling the role of community liaison?

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Being a Problem Solver

Requires SROs to:

- ❖ Learn the needs in their schools
- ❖ Manage critical information
- ❖ Collaboratively identify patterns of crime and disorder
- ❖ Collaborate to develop responses
- ❖ Assess results

Problem Solver

What might be barriers to fulfilling the role of problem solver?

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SRO as an Educator



Law Enforcement Careers	Bullying Prevention	Bicycle & Traffic Safety
Miranda Rights	Drug dangers & awareness	Shoplifting
Forensic Evidence	Date rape	Child or Sexual Abuse

Educator

What might be barriers to fulfilling the role of Educator?



Safety Specialist

- SROs:
- ✓ Are sworn law enforcement officers
 - ✓ Have legal authority to arrest if necessary
 - ✓ Handle calls for service at their school
 - ✓ Use the Community Policing Approach
 - ✓ Must report crimes according to law & partnership agreements
 - ✓ Must differentiate between criminal & school rule violations (know when to lead and when to follow)
 - ✓ Are safety experts

Functions of a Police Officer



Functions of Policing

Street/Field Context	SRO School Context
■ Enforcement	■ Order Maintenance
■ Order Maintenance	■ Public Service
■ Public Service	■ Enforcement

Criminal Violations & Code of Conduct Violations

An effective school-law enforcement partnership identifies and clarifies:

- ✓ the nature of violations which occur (conduct and/or criminal),
- ✓ respective law enforcement and administrator roles, and
- ✓ available sanctions which can be applied.

Safety Specialist

What might be barriers to fulfilling the role of Safety Specialist?

Activity: My School Organization



Teaching Staff Non-Teaching Staff
School Board
Counselors Vice Principals
Parents Students
School Site Council Public Information Officer
School Police Superintendent Principal
Legal Counsel Community Partners/Volunteers
Curriculum/Program Development Department Chairs

Members of the Support Staff

- ✓ Administrators
- ✓ Guidance Counselors
- ✓ School Nurses
- ✓ School Psychologists
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Maintenance Workers
- ✓ Secretaries/Clerks
- ✓ Librarians
- ✓ Classroom Aides
- ✓ Volunteers/Mentors
- ✓ Cafeteria Workers
- ✓ School Security



Program Opportunities for the SRO

Meeting your schools needs

- ✓ In what programs is your SRO currently involved?
- ✓ What new programs could the SRO initiate at your school?
- ✓ What steps would you take to assess the program needs at your school?

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Your Partnership's Memorandum of Understanding

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Activity

Using the sample MOU in your participant manual, discuss how your MOU is alike or different from the sample.



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Documenting Our Success



Evaluation:

- ✓ a systematic process
- ✓ to obtain credible information
- ✓ for the purpose of program improvement & program assessment

Questions??


