

Ohio School Resource Officers Association

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Strategic Plan: 2016 through 2019

Vision (How we envision our future)

The Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA) will continue to be a leading authority on school-based law enforcement and school safety through the development of professional/legislative relationships and training standards.

Mission (What we wish to accomplish)

The mission of the Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA) is to promote and facilitate training and communication among School Resource Officers, educators and school security personnel in Ohio. OSROA is a resource for school-based law enforcement and educators to use to create safe and positive learning environments in Ohio's schools.

Values (Why we are passionate about our Mission)

The Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA) believes that the presence of a properly trained School Resource Officer within a school provides a first line of defense against violence, fosters communication/partnerships between educators, law enforcement, students and parents, and ensures safer and more productive school communities in Ohio.

Goals

1. Continually monitor SRO duties, current trends and school-based law to identify, develop and provide training and/or resources on school-based law enforcement/safe school topics.
2. Advocate for SROs and school safety.
3. Encourage the growth and viability of the Ohio School Resource Officers Association

WHAT A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM IS:

A School Resource Officer (SRO) program places law enforcement officers/deputies in schools with the goal of creating and maintaining a safe, secure, and orderly learning environment for students, teachers, and staff. An SRO program reflects a community's desire to ensure that its schools are safe, secure and orderly. SROs represent a proactive strategy designed to bring prevention and intervention into the schools.

WHAT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SROs) ARE:

SROs are valuable resources for their schools. They are trained to fulfill three roles. First and foremost, they are law enforcement officers whose primary purpose is to "keep the peace" in their schools so that students can learn and teachers can teach.

Second, they are law-related mentors who provide guidance on various issues to students, parents, and school administrators and act as a link to support services both inside and outside the school environment.

Third, they are law-related education instructors who provide schools with an additional educational resource by sharing their expertise in the classroom.

Beyond these identified roles and, perhaps most importantly, SROs are positive role models and mentors for many students who are not exposed to such role models in today's society. Their presence in the schools sends a strong message that violence is not acceptable.

HOW SRO PROGRAMS ARE CONDUCTED

School systems and law enforcement agencies typically work collaboratively to carry out SRO programs. On a daily basis, the program depends on the working relationships which exist between the SROs and school principal(s). By sharing a common vision that schools must be safe and secure for learning to take place, the SROs and principals become members of a team united in making certain that learning environments are free of fear and conducive to learning.

THE "PROMISE" OF AN SRO PROGRAM

An SRO program is a "promising" strategy because it enables communities and schools to address school violence with both prevention and intervention techniques. Having an SRO on a school campus can deter problem situations from arising and can enhance a school's capacity to address its safety and security concerns. When problems do arise, SROs can intervene quickly to address the situation. SROs can contribute to safe school planning efforts and offer their schools a resource to turn to when emergencies occur.

Ultimately, the presence of an SRO assists in making the school safer and more secure for students, teachers, and staff. The entire community benefits as well because learning is more likely to take place in such an environment.