



March 2018 SRO Cost Survey Results

The Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA) has received a number of requests from chiefs, sheriffs, SROs, and school administrators asking about the Ohio “norm” in regards to the way school resource officers’ salary/benefits are paid. Some law enforcement agencies (police departments and sheriffs offices) pay the entire SRO cost, while some school districts are responsible for the SRO cost, and some law enforcement (LE) agencies and school districts split the SRO cost.

This survey was sent to all 88 Ohio sheriffs and to 361 police departments. OSROA received a 28% response. The survey contained three questions:

1. *SRO Salary paid entirely by law enforcement agency: YES or NO*
2. *SRO Salary paid entirely by school district: YES or NO*
3. *SRO Salary split between the law enforcement agency and the school district: YES or NO*
If YES, please fill in the percentage: ___% LE and ___% school district

For this survey: “Cost” is considered salary and benefits unless noted otherwise. Ten months out of twelve is considered the school year. The law enforcement agency issues the paycheck for the SRO and is reimbursed by the school district for the agreed upon amount unless otherwise noted. SROs are sworn law enforcement officers commissioned by a law enforcement agency.

Results

17.30% - Law enforcement agency pays all SRO costs

24.50% - School district pays all SRO costs

58.20% - Law enforcement agency and school district split the SRO cost:

- 43% LE & 57% District is the **mean/average** split
- 50% LE & 50% District is the most common split
- 18% LE & 82% District is the lowest % of LE pay
- 77% LE & 23% District is the highest % of LE pay

Notable comments included in the survey responses:

- Three sheriff’s offices reported that their SRO cost was split between the SO, the school district and the County Education Service Center picking up 37.5%.
- Five agencies reported the Ohio Attorney General's Drug Abuse Prevention Education grant reimburses the agency for some portion of the SRO cost. The OSROA predicts that more agencies than just these five apply for and receive reimbursement from this grant. The application is available now and closes April 27, 2018: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Local-Law-Enforcement/Drugs/Drug-Use-Prevention-Program-Grant>
- Three agencies reported that at least one of their SROs is retired from their PD or SO, paid directly by the school district and commissioned by that LE agency. Additional agencies, those who did not participate in this survey, have indicated that their SRO program is also set up this way.
- One agency reported that they pay the SRO salary and the school district pays any and all SRO overtime.
- Five agencies indicated that the PTO/PTA pays for SRO trainings/conferences.
- Two agencies reported that they bill the school district for the salaried hourly rate only and that they pay all of the benefits.

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- Three agencies reported that the cost of SRO uniforms and new cruiser was split 50/50 between agency and the school district.
- Two agencies reported that their SRO works in the school either one day a week or two half days. On patrol the remainder of the work week.
- Four agencies commented that they apply for the COPS grant from DOJ when available.
<https://cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=65> For more information, please contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or by email askCOPSRC@usdoj.gov
- Nine agencies noted that they had been paying 100% of the SRO cost but are currently in the process of creating or revising their MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the school district to split the cost.

Survey conducted and compiled in March 2018 by
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“Thank you for supporting School Resource Officers in Ohio’s schools!”