

What is a School Resource Officer?

<p><u>LAW ENFORCER</u></p> <p>Promotes safety in or around the school by addressing crime and fear of crime</p> <p>Serves as a liaison between the school and outside agencies</p>	<p><u>INFORMAL COUNSELOR</u></p> <p>Builds relationships</p> <p>Reinforces positive behaviors</p> <p>Connects youth with needed services</p>
<p><u>EDUCATOR</u></p> <p>Teaches topics related to law enforcement geared toward positive student behavior</p> <p>Collaborates with stakeholder groups</p>	<p><u>EMERGENCY MANAGER</u></p> <p>Develops and implements comprehensive safety plans or strategies, in coordination with school administrators and local first responders</p>

SRO Roles: SROs play multiple roles in schools

SROs are sworn law enforcement officers responsible for safety and crime prevention in schools.

A local police department, sheriff's agency, or school system typically employs SROs who work closely with school administrators in an effort to create a safer environment.

The responsibilities of SROs are similar to regular police officers/sheriff's deputies in that they have the ability to make arrests, respond to calls for service, and document incidents that occur within their jurisdiction.

Beyond law enforcement, SROs also serve as educators, emergency managers, and informal counselors.

While an SRO's primary responsibility is law enforcement, whenever possible, SROs should strive to employ non-punitive techniques when interacting with students. Arrests should be used only as a last resort under specified circumstances.

Important Considerations When Assigning School Resource Officers:

- ★ SRO Selection Guidelines- <http://www.osroa.org/newprogram.html>
- ★ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- Defines the collaboration between the law enforcement agency and the educational community.
- ★ SRO Basic Training- A 40-hour training that provides officers with the knowledge and resources to work in school setting.

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/supportingsafeschools>