



## The SRO and Community Policing in Schools



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## Instructional Objectives

- ✓ Explore how community policing works in schools
- ✓ Define the roles of the SRO
- ✓ Discuss the organization of schools
- ✓ Demonstrate the role of the MOU in your partnership
- ✓ Identify program opportunities for the SRO
- ✓ Highlight the value of program assessment and evaluation

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## Community Policing

Community policing is an organization-wide philosophy and management approach that promotes:

- ✓ Collaborative planning
- ✓ Community partnerships
- ✓ Proactive problem solving
- ✓ Organizational change



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## Traditional vs. Community Policing

### Traditional Policing

- ✓ Incident driven
- ✓ Not involved in problem solving & planning
- ✓ Unreported crimes, no consequences
- ✓ Suppression
- ✓ Unwelcomed presence
- ✓ Success = number of arrests

### SRO/Community Policing

- ✓ School becomes a beat
- ✓ Involved in problem solving & planning
- ✓ Appropriate criminal consequences
- ✓ Prevention/Intervention
- ✓ Welcomed presence
- ✓ Success = absence of crime

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## Consider this...

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

The community is the school and the school is the community.



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## What is a School Resource Officer ?

NASRO definition:

- ✓ a fully sworn law enforcement officer
- ✓ primary assignment = schools
- ✓ for enforcement, law-related education & counseling & mentoring students.

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## Activity



### What does a School Resource Officer do?

- ✓ Divide into groups of either school administrators or SROS
- ✓ In your groups, brainstorm a list of SRO responsibilities, duties and expectations

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## COPS in Schools SRO Roles



Problem Solver/Community Liaison

Educator



Law Enforcement/Safety Specialist

## Community Liaison Problem Solver



- ✓ 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 counselling 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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## Being a Problem Solver



### Requires SROs to:

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

## Educator

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



## Student Relationships



### Daily interactions with students serve:

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

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## Law Enforcement Officer 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

## 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.

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## Is the SRO a role model?



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## The SRO: A Positive Role Model

- ✓ 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



## 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

Be aware of your  
public profile  
24/7.



