



The COPS Office supports safe schools by providing grant funds, technical assistance, and resources to help deploy school resource officers (SROs). Learn more about SROs and all of our projects and resources that support school safety.

## What is a School Resource Officer?

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 in that they have the ability to make arrests, respond to calls for service, and document incidents that occur within their jurisdiction.

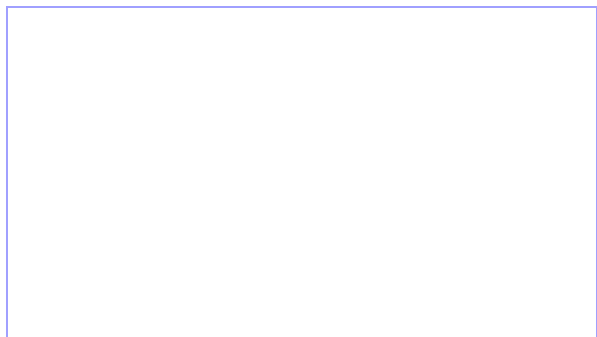
Beyond law enforcement, SROs also serve as educators, emergency managers, and informal counselors.

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:

<p><b><u>LAW ENFORCER</u></b></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><b><u>INFORMAL COUNSELOR</u></b></p> <p>Builds relationships</p> <p>Reinforces positive behaviors</p> <p>Connects youth with needed services</p>
<p><b><u>EDUCATOR</u></b></p> <p>Teaches topics related to law enforcement geared toward positive student behavior</p> <p>Collaborates with stakeholder groups</p>	<p><b><u>EMERGENCY MANAGER</u></b></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



- ★ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- ★ Training
- ★ Assessments
- ★ School Discipline
- ★ SECURe



*Not in Our Town and the COPS Office present the documentary, "**Beyond the Badge: Profile of a School Resource Officer**"*

**Averted School Violence:**



The Averted School Violence (ASV) reporting system enables SROs and other law enforcement officers, school personnel and mental health professionals to share their stories and lessons learned, in order to improve school safety and help prevent future tragedies.

**Additional Resources:**

- ★ National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)
- ★ School Emergency Management
- ★ Planning
- ★ Active Shooter
- ★ Recovery

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*<https://cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2687>*