

STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH // A Parent's Guide

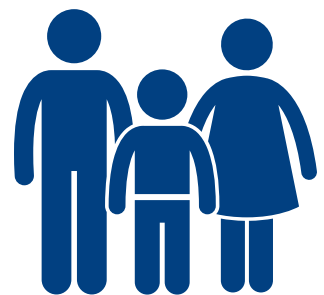
SROs in Schools

What parents should ask about School Resource Officers (SROs)
in their child's school

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Working Agreements



What is the Working Agreement Between Your Child's School and Law Enforcement?

- 1 Does a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) exist stating the relationship between the school and the law enforcement agency? Yes No
- Is it publicly available on the school's website? Yes No
 - Does it define obligations, responsibilities, and roles of SROs and school personnel? Yes No
 - Does it define legal protections for students and rights of parents to know? Yes No

- 2 Is your SRO one of the following?
- A sworn municipal police officer deployed to a public school system
 - A sworn deputy sheriff deployed to a public school system
 - A sworn officer hired by your child's public school district
 - A security guard hired by your child's public school district

- 3 Who pays for the SRO?
- The local police department alone pays for the officers sent to the school
 - The sheriff's department alone pays for the deputies sent to the school
 - The school district pays law enforcement departments to send officers
 - What percentage of the officers' salaries are paid for by the schools? _____
 - How much does the school district pay annually? _____
 - The school district assumes all costs for the sworn officer and/or security guards

- 4 Which government agency pays the salaries of the school resource officers (SROs)?
- _____

- 5 Which government agency is designated as responsible for the conduct of the SROs?
- _____

Working Agreements (CONTINUED)

6 What is the process for developing an MOU?

- What role do parents have in the process? Yes No
- Are parents involved in setting policy for SRO's involvement? Yes No
- Does the MOU board distinguish between discipline and delinquency? Yes No
- Does the MOU require the school and/or law enforcement agency to publicize data on the school's website about number of suspensions, expulsions, police citations and/or arrests ? Yes No

7 How is the attorney for the schools involved in the development of the MOU?

SROs and School Personnel



School/Law Enforcement Policies Regarding SROs' Role

1 What written guidelines exist to guide teachers', school administrators' and school staff's interactions with officers?

• Are these guidelines publicly available on the school website? Yes No

2 How has the role of an SRO been defined? _____

• Is it written and publicly available on the school website? Yes No

3 What is the legal authority for SROs' involvement in your child's school?

- State law
- State education policy
- District policy
- School principal decision
- Law enforcement agency commander decision

4 What is the role of the SRO in school discipline? _____

• What student behaviors fall under the category of "discipline"?

5 When may an SRO become involved in a classroom incident? _____

6 Does state law require arrest of students for certain school-based behaviors? Yes No

• What are they? _____

7 Are there alternatives to arrest? Yes No

• What are they? _____

SROs and School Personnel (CONTINUED)

SROs Relationships with Teachers and Administrators

1 In what circumstances **must** teachers call officers to intervene? _____

2 In what circumstances **may** teachers call officers to assist them? _____

- Does available data confirm that the policies are being followed? Yes No

3 In what circumstances do administrators call officers to assist them or deploy them to assist teachers?

- Searches of students? May Call Must Call
- Searches of lockers? May Call Must Call
- Other: _____ May Call Must Call

4 Are teachers, administrators, and school staff informed about SROs' role? Yes No

How? _____

5 Are teachers trained with SROs about the following topics?

- Child and adolescent development Yes No
- Trauma-informed approaches to working with youth Yes No
- Recognizing and responding to children's mental health issues Yes No
- De-escalation techniques Yes No
- Learning disabilities impacts and their impacts on student behavior Yes No
- De-escalating incidents involving youth and youth in groups Yes No
- Use of force and restraints Yes No
- Juvenile law and collateral consequences of arrest and court involvement Yes No
- Implicit bias Yes No

SRO Qualifications and Selection



SRO Recruitment

- 1 Are members of the community involved in the selection of an SRO? Yes No
- 2 Are schools and community members involved in the selection of an SRO? Yes No
 - Who participates in the selection of the SRO? _____

- 3 Did the selected officer volunteer or was the officer assigned to be an SRO?
 Volunteer Assigned
- 3 Was the officer placed in the school by union seniority rules? Yes No

SRO Performance History

- 1 Does the officer have a history of coaching and volunteering with community youth? Yes No
- 2 Does the officer have a professional history of teaching, social work, or youth services? Yes No
- 3 Have complaints been made against the officer? Yes No
 - How many involve youth? _____
- 4 Has the officer been sued for "objectively unreasonable and/or excessive force" prior to becoming an SRO? Yes No

Training for SROs

- 1 Has the officer received training to work in schools prior to being placed in a school as an SRO? ..
 Yes No
- 2 Did the training include these topics:
 - Child and adolescent development and psychology Yes No
 - Trauma-informed approaches to working with youth. Yes No

SRO Qualifications and Selection (CONTINUED)

- Recognizing and responding to children’s mental health issues..... Yes No
 - Learning disabilities and their impacts on behaviors Yes No
 - Special education laws and protections..... Yes No
 - Emotional and behavioral disabilities Yes No
 - De-escalating techniques..... Yes No
 - Working with youth in groups Yes No
 - Use of force and restraints with children and youth..... Yes No
 - Use of permissible and prohibited restraints Yes No
 - Juvenile Law and collateral consequences of arrest and court involvement Yes No
 - Implicit bias..... Yes No
- 3 Has the officer been asked to demonstrate knowledge of these topics? Yes No

Use of Force and Restraints



School and Law Enforcement Agency Policies for Restraints and Use of Force

- 1 Is there a written policy for use of force Yes No
Is it publically available on the school's website Yes No

2 For what student conduct may officers use restraints?

- 3 What kind of restraints may be used? In what situations?
 Cuffs / Plastic Cuffs _____
 Restraint Chairs _____
 Shackles _____

- 4 Are there written guidelines to guide officers' use of force and restraints? Yes No
Are the guidelines for SROs publicly available on the school's website? Yes No

5 For what student conduct may officers use force? In what situations? _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| Batons <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Arm Bar <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Tasers <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Pain Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Chemical Sprays <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Pressure Point Control <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

6 What kind of force may be used? In what situations? _____

- 7 How is information about use of restraints and use of force policies conveyed to:
 Teachers and school administrators? _____
 Parents? _____
 Students? _____

Use of Force and Restraints (CONTINUED)

8 For SROs deployed by a municipal police department, what is the use of force policy?

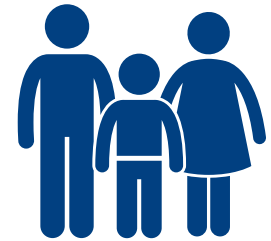
- Does it distinguish between use of force for adults and youth? Yes No
- Is it made publicly available? Yes No

9 What student behavior will be deemed non-compliant, resisting and justify use of force?

10 Is data on each use of force documented and reported to law enforcement and school authorities? Yes No

- How is this data collected and presented? _____
- At what intervals is it reported? Daily Monthly
- How is it conveyed to parents and the community? _____

Parent and Student Notifications



How are Parents Notified of Discipline/Arrest of Your Child?

- 1 What is the process? _____
- 2 When are parents called? _____
 - Who must call parents to report use of force or restraints on students?

- 3 Are parents allowed in the room when their child is interviewed/interrogated by SROs? Yes No
 - For what issues? _____
 - At what point? _____
 - What is the process for notification? _____
- 4 How is custody defined? _____
- 5 When are students' *Miranda* rights provided? _____

How do Parents Know What's Happening?

- 1 Is each arrest counted? Yes No
- 2 Data on arrests: How, when and where is school-based information disclosed?

- 3 Is data on arrests and use of force compiled?
 - How? _____
 - Is it compiled by school? Yes No
 - Is it compiled by SRO? Law enforcement agency? Yes No
 - Is it compiled at the district level? Yes No
- 4 Is data disaggregated by race, age, gender and special education status for:
 - Each school? Yes No
 - Each district? Yes No

Parent and Student Notifications (CONTINUED)

- 5 Is this information made public? Yes No
- If yes, where? _____
 - If not, why not? _____
 - Is it obtainable by public records request? Yes No

How are Students Told of the Role of SROs?

- 1 Is the school code of conduct reviewed with students? Yes No
- 2 Are students informed what behavior will lead to arrest? Yes No
- How and when is the information conveyed? _____
- 3 Are students told about how they may respond when questioned by SROs regarding conduct that could lead to arrest? Yes No
- How is this information conveyed? _____

Where Do Parents Go to File Complaints & Compliments about SROs?

- 1 Is there a system in place to receive complaints? Yes No
- 2 How are parents notified of that process? _____
- 3 Once a complaint is received,
- Who investigates it? _____
 - How is it investigated? _____
 - What are the potential outcomes? _____
 - What is the appeals process for the SRO or parent? _____

Special Education Needs

Do you have a child with special education needs?

- 1 Do SROs receive training on working with students with disabilities? Yes No
- 2 Are SROs given directives from the principal or school superintendent about arresting students with special education needs? Yes No
- 3 If your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), have the SROs been informed by the special education team what the agreed-upon response will be when your child's behaviors manifests their disability. Yes No
- 4 Have the SROs been invited to attend your child's IEP meeting? Yes No
- 5 Are SROs aware of the process by which stay-put provisions work and will be implemented? Yes No