

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)

Program Policies:

1. The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a collaborative effort between the Parish School Boards and the Parish Sheriffs' Offices or Police Departments to maintaining order on Louisiana school campuses. In the event of criminal activity on a school campus, the officer could intervene immediately and, in some cases, make a difference between life and death.
2. The School Resource Officer:
 - A. Must be a Basic, Level 1, P.O.S.T. Certified Peace Officer in good standing with their Parish Sheriff's Office or Police Department.
 - B. Must have two (2) years *law enforcement* experience.
 - C. Must have a minimum education requirement: High School Diploma, or G.E.D. Completion of School Resource Officer Basic Training. (eff. 9/1/09)
 - D. Is required to wear their complete patrol uniform attire at all times.
 - E. Shall be on campus at all times and be familiar with the school layout, the staff, as well as the student body.
3. The SRO can be a resource to teachers in areas of law-related education (LRE). LRE teaches students why there are laws and how the laws can help them. The LRE program can be added to a class curriculum and has been shown to be effective in helping establish safer environments not just in the schools but the communities as well.
4. The SRO can and, at times, will assume utilize the role of advisor and can use their network of contacts in assisting students, parents, and the faculty. The SRO cannot take the place of the school's guidance counselor or social worker. The SRO will only provide assistance when asked.

Reviewed/Recommended by SRO Curriculum Committee on 4/16/09.

Approved by the Louisiana POST Council on 4/23/09

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. All staff members must understand that the SRO is a sworn peace officer charged with enforcing all local, state, and federal laws. The SRO will use their discretion as to the proper application of their responsibility for law enforcement in a school environment.
2. The SRO should be assigned to their school on a full-time basis and adhere to the assigned school's schedule. The SRO and the school Principal will schedule a time for their lunch break. The SRO's supervisor (Parish Sheriff or Police Chief) must approve any departure from an assigned schedule. The school's Principal will be notified if scheduling changes are necessary.
3. The SRO may be temporarily reassigned during a period of police emergency.
4. The Principal is charged by the School Board with supervising all aspects of the school site. The SRO is charged with enforcing the law. Each should respect the duties of the other and work in mutual agreement.
5. The SRO may assist instructional staff in serving as a resource person and/or presenter in the areas of:
 - A. Police and Their Role in Society
 - B. Laws
 - C. Juvenile and Adult Criminal Justice Systems
 - D. Career Opportunities in Law EnforcementNote: The SRO will **not be** utilized as a substitute teacher or as replacement teacher. The classroom teacher shall be present during an SRO's classroom presentation.
6. The SRO is not the school's disciplinarian. If the Principal believes an incident is a law violation, they shall contact the SRO who will then determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate.
7. The SRO will abide by the policies, rules and regulations of the Parish Sheriff's Office or Police Department and the Parish School Board. The Parish School Board will supply the SRO with a copy of the School Board's rules and regulations. In the event of a conflict, the Parish Sheriff's Office or Police Department's rules and regulations will take precedence.
8. The SRO will report any violation of School Board policy to the attention of the school's Principal or their designee.
9. The SRO can attend parent conferences with the written consent of the parent and upon request of the school's administration. The SRO shall not assume nor replace the role of any school caseworker and/or counselor.

10. The SRO will assist school personnel in enforcing school rules, including monitoring student movement in the halls, checking passes, parking permits, lunchtime activities, etc.
11. The SRO will make themselves available for conferences with students, parents, and faculty members to assist them with problems of a law enforcement or crime prevention nature. Confidential information obtained should not be disclosed unless it relates to mandatory reporting as required by law.
12. Any formal police interviews with students should adhere to School Board Policy, Sheriff's Office or Police Department's Policy, concerning such interviews.
13. The SRO should take enforcement action as required. The Principal will be made aware of such action, as soon as practical. The SRO will take appropriate law enforcement action toward intruders and unwanted guests who appear at school and related school functions.
14. The SRO will interact with students to promote and reinforce the development of basic life skills, personal control, and responsibility for one's actions to further establish rapport with the student body.
15. The SRO should be familiar with all community service agencies which offer assistance to youths and their families such as mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, etc. making referrals when necessary.
16. The SRO serves as a liaison with the Parish Sheriff's Office or Police Department regarding community affairs, which may affect the school environment.
17. The SRO should participate in the development of plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations.
18. The SRO will attend and successfully complete a certified basic or advanced training course mandated by the POST Council.
19. The SRO who has been previously grandfathered as a Louisiana SRO, will attend and successfully complete any Louisiana POST approved continuing education.