

School Safety Success Stories: Atlanta Public Schools Case Study

In this video, Chief Ronald Applin of Atlanta Public Schools details best practices for School Resource Officer (SRO) training and the many different roles SROs can play when engaging with students, including mentor, educator, and officer. Chief Applin also discusses ways SROs can support students in a distance learning environment.

Learning Outcomes

- » Identify the roles that SROs may play in a school.
- » Describe the kinds of training that SROs may be asked to complete.
- » Explain how SROs can assist students and families in distance learning environments.
- » Make use of available resources regarding SROs.

[VIEW VIDEO NOW](#)

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Atlanta Public Schools created their own police department in 2016, where 84 officers serve 91 learning sites and 52,000 students.
- ✓ All SROs in Atlanta Public Schools are trained in restorative practices, crisis intervention, Mental Health First Aid, and Social-Emotional Learning. They complete more than 20 hours of additional training per month.
- ✓ The department adapted and adopted the NASRO triad concept which categorizes SRO responsibilities into Mentor, Educator, and Law Enforcer.
- ✓ In the police department's first year, there was a 50% reduction in the number of students charged with a crime.
- ✓ During the COVID-19 pandemic and the switch to distance learning, SROs performed welfare checks and home visits and helped provide 30,000+ students with meals each week.
- ✓ Chief Applin advises SROs to "put in as much focus on the mental tools as you do the ones around your belt."

Additional Resources

[International Institute of Restorative Practices](#)

[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#)

[National Association of School Resource Officers \(NASRO\)](#)

[Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police](#)

[International Association of Chiefs of Police](#)

Questions for Discussion

- » How are SROs different from other law enforcement officers? How are these differences communicated to the school community?
- » What kinds of training do your school's SROs complete? Where can you point them if they would like additional opportunities to grow their skill set?
- » Are you and your SROs in alignment when it comes to priorities, discipline approaches, and responsibilities? If not, how can you get there?

[NC2S.org](https://www.nc2s.org) | schoolsafety@umich.edu | 734-647-8295
[Twitter.com/NC2S_Tweets](https://twitter.com/NC2S_Tweets) | [Facebook.com/SafeSchoolsUS](https://www.facebook.com/SafeSchoolsUS)

Copyright © 2021 Regents of the University of Michigan

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No 2019 YS BX K 001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.