

School & Law Enforcement Partnerships



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This [self-paced training](#) is designed to help schools and law enforcement agencies discuss what form they want their partnerships to take. You will also be encouraged to consider important issues related to these partnerships. This training has a companion workbook with discussion questions intended to facilitate conversations between schools and their partner law enforcement agencies.

Learning Outcomes

- » Identify the types of school and law enforcement partnerships that exist.
- » Determine roles and responsibilities in schools and law enforcement partnerships.
- » Discuss ethical information sharing between school and law enforcement agencies.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ The goal of having a School Resource Officer is to ensure a safe environment and develop positive relationships between law enforcement and youth.
- ✓ A clear Memorandum of Understanding is crucial to the success of any law enforcement partnership.
- ✓ Officers should be carefully selected for a role in schools to assure the right fit and receive specialized training to operate in schools and interact with students.
- ✓ Training, conducting exercises, and ensuring preparation together results in school and law enforcement partnerships that can function successfully in times of crisis.

Additional Resources

[The National Center for School Safety SRO Videos](#) — This collection of videos addresses best practices for School Resource Officers and can serve as a resource for your school in building that partnership.

[Guiding Principles for School Resource Officer Programs](#) — This publication provides an outline for how School Resource Officers can serve and protect the school community.

[Systematic Review: Perceptions of School Resource Officers](#) — This short video shares highlights from a number of studies that address how School Resource Officers are perceived, and how those perceptions may shape the experiences of students and staff on campus.

[The National Association of School Resource Officers](#) — This website provides a variety of resources, trainings, conferences, and networking opportunities to learn more about the field of school-based policing.

Questions for Discussion

- » What are the reasons for your school to have a School Resource Officer? What are their roles and responsibilities?
- » How might having a School Resource Officer impact different populations in the school community?
- » How will community members, parents, and other parties react to the development or expansion of a partnership with law enforcement? What concerns may be important to address?
- » How will expectations be established and how will those be monitored and upheld throughout the partnership?
- » What training will be necessary to ensure a successful partnership between your school and law enforcement?

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