

Role of a School Resource Officer



**PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE



- **Lt. Schafer: Secondary Education Degree; Teacher at Francis Howell High School**
- **13 years of Law Enforcement Experience: Patrol, Homicide, Patrol Supervisor, and Police Contracts**
- **PO Cockrell Experience: Attended Florissant Valley Community College**
- **28 years with St. Louis County Police, S.R.O., N.P.O., HUD Detective and Dignitary Detective**

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES



- **What is a School Resource Officer (SRO)?**
- **What is the overall mission of a School Resource Officer (SRO)**
- **Identify and Explain the Three Main Roles of an SRO**
- **History of Police/School Partnerships**
- **Identify potential future challenges and how to best address them from a law enforcement perspective**

School Resource Officer



- **Defined:**

- Commissioned Police Officer assigned to a School District
- DOJ Definition: Sworn Law Enforcement Officer responsible for safety and crime prevention in school

Authority is same as a police officer: Make arrests, respond to calls for service and investigate/document incidents

Training required is equal to or more than a police officer (Active-Shooter Training; DARE; NASRO)

Overall Mission



- Provide a safe environment for students, staff, and citizens who interact with the district

How do we accomplish this mission?

Officer training

Communication

Be Pro-active and Vigilant

3 Roles of a School Resource Officer



- **Law Enforcement**

- School Resource Officers promote the security of students and faculty by supporting the school districts policies and guidelines as well as local laws and ordinances

- **Community Building**

- School Resource Officers build relationships with students, faculty, and parents which helps when it comes to problem solving or conflict resolution occurring at school

- **Information Liaison**

- School Resource Officers serve as a liaison to neighboring school districts, government agencies, and communities

Law Enforcement



- Enforce the law: State, County, and Municipal Juvenile Law, Adult Law, Family Abuse Law
- Support School District Policies and Guidelines as they relate to safety
- Provide input on important decisions being made at the school level on the following:
 - Policies and Procedures related to safety
 - Changing everyday Security protocols
 - Give schools ideas on how to keep everyone safe

Community Building



- Build relationships with students, faculty, and parents which helps when it comes to problem solving or conflict resolution occurring at school
- Serve as a guest speaker and/or emcee at special events sponsored by the District
- Work with neighborhoods adjacent to District's schools for the mutual goals of Police Department and School District

Information Liaison



- Serve as a liaison to neighboring school districts, government agencies, and communities
- Update District on training received or planned
- Provide briefing on changes to state or local laws, the impact on schools, and how they will be enforced
- Meet monthly/quarterly to monitor and evaluate the progress of the Program

History of Police/School Partnerships



- Prior to the 1950's the concept of an SRO did not exist
- Improve relationship between police and youth
- Late 1950's in Flint, Michigan was earliest example of an SRO program
- 1963 "School Resource Officer" term was adopted
- SRO Program greatly expanded in the 60's and 70's

Identify and Address Challenges Ahead



Discussion

- Social Media
- Environmental Design of Buildings
- Opioid Use

CONCLUSION



- Through quality law enforcement, community building, and serving as an information liaison, the mission of safety and security can be achieved
- We need to continue the conversation with each other to better prepare our region for when this event happens.
- We owe it to the citizens
- Contact your local agency if you have any questions

Sources



- NASRO SRO Management Symposium Course Manual (revised July 2006)
- Police Service Agreements-St. Louis County PD



- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= XdKlTKUoZs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdKlTKUoZs)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GejktH5CfUo>