

SRO RESOURCES



KENTUCKY CENTER
for SCHOOL SAFETY

Creating an SRO Program

The need for a School Resource Officer (SRO) is more critical in today's schools than ever before. A well-trained SRO provides not only protection but also valuable resources that support the safety and well-being of students and staff. SROs today are equipped with specialized training in areas such as officer response, mental health crisis intervention, threat assessment, building effective relationships, and more. SROs are more than just law enforcement officers; they are mentors, law-related educators, and trusted members of the school community. They play a vital role in building relationships, fostering trust, and contributing to a safe and supportive learning environment.

How do I get an SRO for my school?

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a sworn, certified, law enforcement officer from the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over your school. If your school is interested in establishing an SRO program, the first step is to contact the Chief of Police or County Sheriff who serves your area to begin a discussion about assigning an SRO to your campus. School districts can also create a school-based law enforcement agency (SBLEA). [Please see the tab titled "School-Based Law Enforcement Agency" to learn more about creating a school-based program.](#)

What is the definition of an SRO in Kentucky?

In Kentucky, a School Resource Officer (SRO) is defined under KRS 158.441 as a sworn law enforcement officer with specialized training to work with youth at a school site. They are employed through a contract between a local law enforcement agency and a school district. These officers are required to be POPS-certified and are meant to foster a safe school environment, act as law-related educators, and mentor students.

How does a school pay for an SRO?

The school district and the law enforcement agency will work together to determine how the costs associated with the SRO program will be shared. This typically includes salary, training, equipment, and other related expenses. In some cases, the law enforcement agency may cover the total amount of a law enforcement position. In other incidents, the school district may fund the SRO only during the school year.



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Often, costs are shared through arrangements such as sharing a percentage of the cost. As with many aspects of an SRO program, the funding structure is built on partnership and flexibility. It ultimately depends on the resources available to each party and their shared commitment to enhancing school safety. The priority is to develop a sustainable approach that ensures students and staff benefit from a well-trained and fully supported SRO.

School Resource Officers (SROs) in Kentucky also receive funding from the state, providing up to \$20,000 in reimbursement per qualified, full-time, certified school resource officer. For the 2024-2026 budget cycle, Kentucky lawmakers allocated \$46.0 million to support these salaries. The Kentucky Department of Education contact for school security funds is Krystal Smith, Division of District Support, Krystal.smith@education.ky.gov, (502) 564-3846 Ext. 4425. Visit the Kentucky Department of Education website at [School Security Funds - Kentucky Department of Education](#) for more information. Also, you can find federal funding opportunities at [Grants | COPS OFFICE](#).

How are SROs hired?

The selection of a School Resource Officer is a collaborative process between the school district and the law enforcement agency. Both parties meet to discuss the goals and expectations of the SRO program and identify the qualities needed for a successful candidate. Many schools and agencies utilize an interview panel to ensure a well-rounded selection process. These panels may include students, parents, teachers, administrators, and law enforcement representatives, allowing for diverse perspectives when evaluating candidates. ***Please see the tab titled “SRO Hiring” for the following documents:***

[SRO Job Description Template.docx](#)

[34 School Resource Officer Interview Questions \(With Sample Answers\) | Indeed.com](#)

[FAQ | National Association of School Resource Officers](#)

[Guiding Principles for School Resource Officer Programs](#)

<https://www.nasro.org/clientuploads/About-Mission/NASRO-Standards-and-Best-Practices.pdf>

For more information, visit: www.kycss.org



Do SROs need specialized training?

The Department of Criminal Justice Training has long offered training that targets the specific needs of school resource officers (SROs). Now, thanks to the School Safety and Resilience Act passed in 2019, that training has been updated and expanded to serve today's schoolchildren and administrators. Three levels of training are now offered to active, certified law enforcement serving as school resource officers. All SROs are required to take the SRO 1 in-service course within one year of their assignment date. SRO 2 and SRO 3 will be required for in-service for the following two years.

SRO training includes new topics such as working with special-needs students, mental health awareness, and trauma-informed action. Firearms and defensive tactics refresher training will also be included. Visit [School Resource Officer — DOCJT](#) for more information.

What is the eligibility to attend SRO training?

To attend SRO training, officers must be a Peace Officer Professional Standards-certified, sworn law enforcement officer or a special law enforcement officer appointed pursuant to [KRS 61.902](#).

Additional Training Opportunities for SROs in Kentucky:

In addition to the required SRO I – III training provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training, School Resource Officers in Kentucky have access to a variety of optional and supplemental training opportunities designed to enhance their effectiveness.

The Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) offers ongoing professional development throughout the year, including online training sessions on topics such as school law, search and seizure, relationship-building, and cybersecurity in schools. These trainings are designed to complement required coursework and provide practical, real-world application for SROs. Additionally, SROs are encouraged to attend the Safe Schools and Communities Conference, an annual statewide event that brings together law enforcement, educators, and school safety professionals. This free, two-day conference includes breakout sessions, panel discussions, and training on topics such as threat assessment, student trends, reunification protocols, and emerging school safety issues.

For more information, visit: www.kycss.org



SROs may also pursue additional training through national organizations and federal partners, further strengthening their knowledge and skills in school-based policing. [Safe Schools and Communities Conference – Kentucky Center for School Safety](#)

Continued training ensures that SROs remain current on best practices and are well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of their school communities.

Regulations Related to School Safety and School-Based Law Enforcement in Kentucky:

Kentucky SRO regulations, primarily governed by [KRS 158.4414](#) and the School Safety and Resiliency Act, mandate that every K-12 campus have a certified School Resource Officer (SRO) working on-site full-time. SROs are sworn law enforcement officers, certified at three levels via 120 hours of specialized training in [503 KAR 7:010](#) regarding youth, mental health, and trauma.

Regulations related to school-based law enforcement agencies.

SLEO agency:

[KRS 158.441](#)

SBLE agency:

[KRS 158.471](#)

[KRS 15.310 \(9\)](#)

Please see the tab titled “Regulations” for a list of regulations related to school safety in schools.

What is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is a critical document that formalizes the partnership between the school district and the law enforcement agency. It clearly defines the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in supporting a safe and effective learning environment. These documents outline the scope of the SRO’s duties when assisting school officials, ensuring clarity in areas such as safety, discipline, and daily operations. By establishing these guidelines, the MOU/MOA helps both the school and the law enforcement agency maintain appropriate boundaries while working collaboratively. Visit the KCSS website at [Memorandum of Agreement Samples – Kentucky Center for School Safety](#) to see examples of MOUs and MOAs.

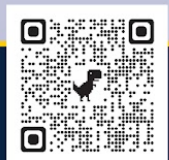


Is there a professional organization in Kentucky that supports SROs?

You can learn more about the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers at www.kyasro.com.

Is there a list of recommended components for an SRO program?

You can find the KCSS list at [SRO Program Components.pdf](#) or by visiting the National Association of School Resource Officers at www.NASRO.org.



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