

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POLICY

Philosophy

The Windham School Committee wants to assure the safe environment of our schools. A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a group of schools. The SRO is specifically trained to perform three roles: a law enforcement officer; law-related counselor; and law-related education teacher. The SRO will provide a visible and positive image for law enforcement and bring expertise into schools that will help young people make more positive choices in their lives. The SRO also works to protect the school environment and to maintain an atmosphere where teachers feel safe to teach and students feel safe to learn.

Role of the School Resource Officer (SRO)

The School Resource Officer will work in collaboration with schools and community-based organizations to:

- Address crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around Windham's elementary or secondary schools
- Develop or expand crime prevention efforts for students
- Educate students in crime prevention and safety
- Train students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, and crime awareness

The SRO will also provide classroom instruction on issues related to law enforcement, be a resource to teachers and administrators in planning educational programs, be an advisor/mentor to students and their families, and be a liaison between the schools and the Police Department.

The SRO shall not act as a school disciplinarian. School administrators have primary responsibility for school discipline; however, if a school administrator believes an incident is a violation of the law, the administrator may call upon the SRO to provide assistance, and the SRO shall then determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate. In addition to his/her sworn responsibilities as a law enforcement officer, the SRO will abide by all School Board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities daily through the school principal or his/her designee. In the event of any discrepancy between School Board policies and Police Department policies or orders, the SRO shall follow Police Department policy or orders.

The School Resource Officer is designated as a "law enforcement unit," and is considered a school official with a legitimate educational interest in reviewing educational records in order to perform his/her professional responsibilities. The SRO shall keep names of students and action taken by school administration in the strictest of confidence.

