

Role and Authority of School Resource Officers in Washington County Public Schools

Role

The role of the School Resource Officer (SRO) shall be:

- the protection of students and staff from negative influences and to assist in the maintenance of order in the school;
- to act as an advisor to the school staff in safety matters, violence reduction strategies, and legal aspects of the activity of students;
- to facilitate education in law related topics;
- to provide a positive role model to the students and to foster better understanding between the law enforcement community and the students and staff; and
- to assist students by counseling them in law related problems and to assist them by mediating disputes. Attempts will be made to identify problems with students. Guidance will be provided address their problems in a non-violent manner.

Authority

- The SRO is a certified law enforcement officer through the Maryland Police and Standards Training Commission.
- The SRO shall adhere to all state and federal laws and the policies and procedures of his/her employer.
- The SRO is not a school disciplinarian. The SRO will not become involved in any form of school-administered punishment. If the staff of Washington County Public Schools believes a violation of the law has occurred they shall contact the SRO who will determine whether law enforcement action is appropriate.
- The SRO shall take law enforcement action as required.
- The SRO shall be armed at all times when working at the school.
- The SRO shall coordinate all of his/her activities with the administrative staff at the school.