

**School Resource Officers (SROs)****DEFINITION**

"School resource officer" or "SRO" means an officer who has specialized training to work with youth at a school site and is:

- (a) 1. A sworn law enforcement officer; or  
2. A special law enforcement officer appointed pursuant to KRS 61.902; or  
3. A police officer appointed as a certified SRO; and
- (b) Employed:
1. Through a contract between a local law enforcement agency and a school district;  
2. Through a contract as secondary employment for an officer, as defined in KRS 16.010, between the Department of Kentucky State Police and a school district; or  
3. Directly by a local Board of Education.<sup>1</sup>

**ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS**

This procedure describes the roles and expectations in addition to the matters covered in Policy 02.31, of SROs directly employed by the District as well as other school employees who work with SROs as follows.<sup>1</sup>

- An SRO, as assigned and coordinated with the Central Office administration or Principal, is expected to provide or assist with presentations, trainings, and instruction to students, faculty, administration, and school-related groups regarding law enforcement, safety, drug education and prevention, crime prevention and emergency preparedness, and laws intended to protect the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the community. An SRO is expected to develop appropriate, positive relationships to promote crime prevention, good citizenship, and healthy behaviors intended to prevent the need for disciplinary or law enforcement interventions.
- An SRO will not be responsible for enforcement or administration of discipline of students by other school staff, the Superintendent, school administration, or the Board, nor are SROs responsible for discipline of school employees. Other school employees are likewise not responsible for law enforcement functions or investigations and are not vested with criminal law enforcement authority.
- In furtherance of the promotion of school safety and security, and consistent with Policy 09.14 and corresponding procedures/notices under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), an SRO may access personally identifiable information ("PII") contained in student records in which s/he has a legitimate educational interest as a "school official." An SRO is expected to observe prohibitions on the redisclosure of PII to which s/he is permitted access unless a FERPA exception applies.

**School Resource Officers (SROs)****ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS (CONTINUED)**

- An SRO is expected to assist other school staff as needed in order to determine whether conduct implicates a criminal reporting standard under KRS 158.154; KRS 158.155, or KRS 158.156. After receiving assistance from an SRO regarding the conduct at issue, the staff person and SRO may jointly contact outside law enforcement where it is determined that such a report is required.<sup>1</sup>
- In the event an SRO is involved in an interview of a student or others, an SRO or other law enforcement officer is expected to determine within his/her discretion whether *Miranda* warnings are required and for administering such warnings.<sup>2</sup>
- An SRO is expected to consult and provide input as requested by the Superintendent, Principal, the District School Safety Coordinator and other school staff on school safety issues and requirements including, but not limited to, physical security measures, emergency planning, drills and trainings, school safety plans, security risk assessments, and threat assessment planning and implementation.
- An SRO is expected to serve as a liaison to outside law enforcement, first responders, the court system and other state and local agencies in coordination with and under the direction of the Principal or Superintendent/designee.
- An SRO is expected to solicit support and develop understanding of the SRO program, as requested by the Superintendent/designee. An SRO is expected to be available for conferences with students, parents, and faculty members in furtherance of the purposes of the SRO program.
- An SRO is expected to become familiar with community agencies and school-based resources, which offer assistance to youth and their families such as mental health and drug intervention and counseling services in order to make or assist with referrals to such resources when necessary.

**REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup>KRS 158.154; KRS 158.155; KRS 158.156

<sup>2</sup>N.C. vs. Commonwealth, Ky. 386 S.W.3d 852 (2013)

KRS 158.471

**RELATED POLICIES:**

09.14; 09.2211; 09.227; 09.422; 09.425; 09.4361