

SHERIFF



LAFAYETTE PARISH

SRO Program

Roles and Responsibilities of an SRO



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LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEET THE TEAM

Before We Begin

➤ Information presented today is the practice of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office SRO division so some standards may vary among other agencies.

- Cell phones
- Questions



The Truth

We all make assumptions based on our personal perspectives or what we hear from others, even before we have all the information.

Purpose

The S.R.O. program was created to provide on premises police services to public and private schools and enhance the security of students and staff.

The S.R.O. is a full time, sworn law enforcement officer.

- Employed by his/her agency
- Contracted through the school board
- Works with school administration/staff

Goals

- Our goals as an SRO:
 - Provide a safe learning/working environment.
 - Crime prevention - Incident management - etc.
 - “Bridge the GAP”
 - Build a rapport / trust - Provide guidance/mentorship
 - Act as a liaison for the school.
 - To other law enforcement officials
 - To school board personnel
 - To the general public
 - Educate our youth

Daily Responsibilities

- Canvas the campus - Interior/Exterior.
 - Address any issues/concerns.
- Perform ongoing security checks of the campus.
 - Develop strategies to prevent or minimize dangerous situations on or near the campus.
- Make recommendations and work with administrators to ensure proper action is taken (Work orders, policy being followed, etc.)

Daily Responsibilities

- Documentation of school related incidents.
 - Report taking to include offense and arrest.

- Interact with students to promote and reinforce:
 - Development of basic life skills
 - Social behavior
 - Appropriate activity
 - Personal control and responsibilities for one's actions

Other Roles Commonly Performed by an SRO

- Be available for conferences with students, parents and faculty members.
- Provide guidance to anyone in the school community.
 - Students, teachers, administrators, parents, staff, etc.
- Assist school staff with truancy issues or welfare concerns.
 - Directed to SSgt/floater

Other Roles Commonly Performed by an SRO

- Educate our youth.
 - Teach students how to interact with law enforcement.
 - Give presentations on
 - Bullying - School safety - Decision making
 - Social media - Alcohol - Tobacco - Drugs
- Assist school staff with anyone who is causing a disruption on campus.....

Other Roles Commonly Performed by an SRO

- The SRO **SHALL NOT** be called into classrooms for discipline problems, only those of a criminal nature.
 - The exception will be if the issue poses a danger to other students/staff.
- ★ An SRO is called to a teacher's class for a student acting up.
 - SRO is requested to escort student to the office.
 - This could be construed as a detention (by student or parent).
 - Since the student has committed no crime, the detention could be deemed unlawful.
 - Rights violated - Liability issue

NEVER.....

- Teachers and administrators should **NEVER** use the SRO as a way to threaten or intimidate students.
 - **“If you don’t do this, I’m calling Deputy.....”**
 - You may cause tremendous problems by doing so.
- If you call for an SRO’s assistance, he/she arrives, and there is nothing they can do, you have created an “empty threat” scenario by which students will lose respect for all adults involved.
- If SRO is called, admin should be notified as well.

SRO vs School Employee

The SRO is

NOT A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE and is **NOT A DISCIPLINARIAN.**

- The SRO **SHALL NOT** enforce school board policies.
 - Examples are: dress code violations, classroom behavior problems, disrespecting faculty members, cell phones, etc.

Policy violations shall be reported to the Principal or his/her designee

No Daily Schedule

- The SRO should be aware of their surroundings and available for any situation that may arise during the course of the school day.
 - Not restricted to one location at certain times.
 - Duty spots - opening car doors, etc.
- SROs **SHOULD** be visible during transition and at different locations.
- SROs should not watch a class while teachers leave to tend to other matters (making copies, phone calls, bathroom, etc.). This prevents the SRO from being available to handle any incident that may arise.

Floater

- What is a floater?
 - Our version of a substitute teacher.
 - Floats from school to school.
 - The SRO is **NOT** allowed to leave campus.
 - In the event your SRO is off campus, another SRO Deputy (floater) or SSgt. will be assigned to assist at your school during his/her absence.

Floater

- Please be mindful the “floater” will not be required or expected to do things your SRO does by choice.
- Some SRO’s become part of your faculty/family and want to help where they can so they tend to do things they shouldn’t do and others won’t do. Please keep this in mind because eventually....
 - You may get a new SRO.
 - Your SRO may be “out” for the day and a floater will fill in.
 - This sets the floater up for failure and/or makes them appear lazy.

Making an Arrest

It shall be the discretion of the SRO whether or not an arrest will be made.

NOT ADMINISTRATORS OR SCHOOL STAFF

Behavior concerns = Opportunities

Making an arrest does not always solve the problem

Just because an arrest wasn't made does not mean the situation wasn't handled.

Making an Arrest

- It **shall** be the duty of the SRO to make parental contacts *IF* a student is being arrested (Admin will make follow-up contact).
 - Allows SRO to make contact when safe and ready to do so.
 - Prevents admin/parental confrontation
 - Admin will not be confronted with legal questions.
- For school violations it **shall** be the responsibility of the school administrator(s) to make the notification.
 - The SRO can standby if requested.

FYI

- When calling for an SRO
 - Explain your issue
 - Fight - Irate parent - Suspicious circumstance
- Mandated reporters
 - Make the call first
- The SRO is not allowed to transport students for school-related issues (only those of a criminal nature.)

Cell Phones and Contraband

- An SRO is **NOT** allowed to remove a cell phone from a student's possession unless it is used in the commission of a crime.
 - Enforcement on this issue is strictly the responsibility of the Administration on campus.
- Contraband, when deemed unlawful, shall be the responsibility of the SRO to take appropriate action. If contraband is not illegal, this should again fall under the control of the Administration.

Optional Presence

- SRO's are not required to be on campus while students are not present.
 - Teacher in-service
 - Parent/Teacher conference
 - Other school functions where kids are not present.
- SRO's will assist when possible but departmental needs will supersede school needs when students are not present.
- A school may request to have an SRO present for these events.
 - It will be considered "off duty security."
 - It will come from the school's budget.

Traffic

- The SRO **SHALL NOT** direct traffic before school, after school, or for any school related functions during regular school hours.
 - In the event a one time exception needs to be made, approval must be received from both administrative entities.

- If a school is having traffic issues, the agency within the school's jurisdiction may provide traffic control upon request.
 - Contact risk management to coordinate a plan of action.



LPSO K9

- Deputy Robin and K9 Ami work for LPSO and K9 Ami is the only K9 allowed on a Lafayette Parish School campus.
 - She is a single purpose dog.
 - Trained to detect narcotics.
 - Not an “apprehension dog.”
- K9 Ami is available for:
 - Random classroom sniffs.
 - Class demonstrations.



K9 Demonstrations



K9 Demonstrations



K9 and Searches

- Misconceptions - K9 Ami cannot:
 - Sniff a person.
 - Detect cell phones.
 - Detect weapons (knives, guns, etc.)
 - Detect vapes that do not contain THC.
 - Detect tobacco or lighters.
- Coordinate with your SRO if you wish to have a random classroom sniff conducted at your school.
 - Date, time, and how many rooms.



K9 and Searches

- Classroom sniff procedures:
 - Have classrooms predetermined (if K9 was requested.)
 - Admin must be present during sniff.
 - K9 handler will give all instructions (to students.)
 - Admin should spread out / keep an eye on students.
 - Stand still and do not touch anything until sniff is concluded.
- Administration's role:
 - Wand students (while exiting).
 - Check bags (wear gloves).
- Importance of administrators participation.

Disguised Weapons



Questions

THANK YOU