An SRO (School Resource Officer) is a career law enforcement officer who is assigned to work in collaboration with one or more schools. SROs are assigned by their employing police department, agency or sheriff’s department to this specific, community-oriented patrol duty. Unlike a security guard, an SRO is a sworn law enforcement officer with the authority to make an arrest.

An SRO is a first responder who is integrated into a district’s emergency planning.

An SRO is the first line of defense in a school. Most SROs are armed.

An SRO is an informal educator who can help provide important information to students, parents and staff.

An SRO can assist and monitor a crisis situation to keep students and school employees safe before additional law enforcement arrive.

As of 2017, there were less than 200 SROs in New York.* This number is on the rise as schools add officers in response to increased threats of school violence and the number of deadly incidents reported across the nation.

An SRO doesn’t sit behind a desk. They are present in hallways and cafeterias to interact with students and build relationships in the school community.

A successful SRO program is focused on building healthy relationships between law enforcement and members of the school district to benefit individual students and the greater community.

* New York State Sheriff’s Association

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