



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

January 11, 2024

Washington Building
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-4000
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Dear Chief/Sheriff:

In March of 2023, we advised you of the intent to implement the School Resource Officer (SRO) Certification Program in July 2023. However, you were subsequently notified of a pause in the process while the agency obtained legal guidance regarding a few areas within the implementation process document. On December 7, 2023, the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) voted to amend the previously approved implementation process. The newly amended process became effective on January 1, 2024. Specifically, the following items were amended and approved by the CJSB:

- The requirement for SROs to be at least 21 years of age was removed.
- The requirement for SROs to take an SRO certification exam was removed.

****Please note, there was no change to the requirement for SROs to have a minimum of two years of certified law enforcement experience, as defined in § 9.1-101, at the time of assignment as an SRO to a Virginia public school.**

The SRO certification standards and eligibility criteria approved by the CJSB became effective **on January 1, 2024**, for all new SROs assigned on or after that date. In addition, as of January 1, 2024:

- Certified law enforcement officers serving as SROs before July 1, 2020, without a break in assignment as an SRO, will automatically be certified. No other action will be required, and their certification will be valid until **December 31, 2025**.
- Certified law enforcement officers serving as SROs since July 1, 2020, who have already completed an SRO Basic course will automatically be certified. No other action will be required, and their certification will be valid until **December 31, 2025**.
- Any certified law enforcement assigned to a school as an SRO after January 1, 2024, will be required to complete an SRO Basic course as outlined in the approved Process Document and have two years of certified law enforcement experience at the time of assignment as an SRO.

If you have any questions on these requirements, please contact James Christian, Manager, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, at james.christian@dcjs.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackson H. Miller".

Jackson Miller
Director