

SRO vs SSO: In the School Environment

	School Resource Officer	School Security Officer
<i>Role:</i>	Law enforcement officer	Civilian employee
<i>Employed by:</i>	Local law enforcement agency	School division or private school
<i>Comply with:</i>	Local, state, and federal laws	School board policy
<i>Supervised by:</i>	Law enforcement chain of command	School principal
<i>Enforcement power:</i>	Enforcing the law	Enforcing school policy
<i>Certification:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Law Enforcement Academy • SRO Basic through DCJS 	16 hour SSO Initial Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught by DCJS or certified SSO instructor
<i>In-Service Training:</i>	40 hours (general LEO re-certification)	16 hours
<i>Armed</i>	Yes	<i>Code of Virginia 22.1-280.2:1</i> Prior LE or similar within 10 years Left in good standing Meets training and qualifications in 18.2-308.016 subsection C Completed additional training in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Shooter Response • Emergency Evacuation Procedures • Threat Assessment SD solicits info from local LE regarding qualifications and verification of such SD may grant SSO right to carry
<i>Less Lethal:</i>	Yes – in accordance with department policy and VA Code	Civilian employees may not carry less lethal (i.e. handcuffs, pepper spray, taser, baton) or restraint devices such as handcuffs and flex cuffs.

NO PERSON CURRENTLY SWORN AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY WORK IN A SCHOOL AS AN SSO