



# Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

## School Resource Officer Training Program

*Joint Meeting of the Education and Public Safety  
Workgroups  
March 4, 2013*



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Major Topics and Components of Classroom Training

- Roles and Responsibilities of the SRO/SSO
- School Crisis Preparedness and Response
- Suicide Prevention
- Bullying Prevention
- Substance Abuse and Youth Culture Issues



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Major Topics and Components of Classroom Training

- Effective Strategies for School-Based Policing
- Advanced Legal Issues in Schools
- Gangs in Schools
- Computer Crime
- Virginia Rules and Anti-Gang Initiatives



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## SRO Curriculum and Online Foundation

- Currently available to criminal justice training academies and police departments and sheriff's offices
- Includes objectives, teaching curriculum, activities, forms, reading assignments and sample policies and protocols



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module I

The goal of Module I is to orient school resource officers to the fundamental roles and responsibilities of SROs and basic SRO program operation, including the delivery of law-related education.



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module I

### A. SRO Roles and Responsibilities

1. Legal Definition of SRO
2. Key Roles
3. Qualifications
4. Examples of Duties and Responsibilities
5. Comparison of SRO and SSO Roles

### B. Community-oriented Policing in Schools



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module I

### C. SRO Program Policies and Procedures

1. Parameters of SRO Authority
2. SRO Program: Basic Policies and Procedures
  - a. Sample Policies and Procedures
3. Reports/Record Keeping for SROs
  - a. Field Notes
  - b. *School COPS* Software
4. Evaluating SRO Program Effectiveness



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module I

### D. Law Related Education and Youth Engagement

1. Purposes and Programs
2. The *Virginia Rules* Program
3. Tips for Effective Presentations
4. Engaging Youth in School Safety and Other Crime Prevention Activities



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module II

The goal of Module II is to acquaint SROs and SSOs with the public school environment and strategies for effective collaboration with educators.



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module II

### A. Schools

1. Historical Roots and Evolving Roles of Schools
2. Public Schools: Legal Foundations and Organization
3. Other Key Personnel

### B. Student Conduct Policy

1. Comparison of Criminal and Disciplinary Processes
2. Crime Reporting
3. "Discipline, Crime, and Violence" (DCV) Reporting



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module II


### C. Key Programs and Services

1. Special Education
2. Alternative Education Programs
3. Other Programs and Services
  - a. Student Assistance Programs
  - b. Bullying Prevention
  - c. Violence Prevention
  - d. Truancy Intervention



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module II

### D. Building Collaborative Relationships

1. School-Based Community Policing and Security
2. Become Familiar with “Who Does What”
3. Become Very Familiar with the School Division’s Student Discipline Policies and Procedures
4. Become Familiar with All Safety Policies and Crisis/Emergency Plans and Procedures
5. Learn Additional Strategies for Building Collaborative Relationships



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# School Resource Officer Training Program


## Module III

The goal of Module III is to acquaint SROs and SSOs with the legal base for law enforcement action in a school setting, the legal base for educator and school security action, and key features of lawful collaboration among SROs, SSOs, and educators.



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module III

- A. Foundations for Law Enforcement and Educator/SSO Action
  - 1. Review Comparison of SRO and SSO Roles
  - 2. Legal Standards Governing Law Enforcement and Educator/SSO Action



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module III

### B. Search and Seizure Basics

1. Balancing Competing Interests
2. Reasonable Suspicion
3. Importance of School Policy
4. Categories of Searches
  - a. Blanket and Random Administrative Searches
  - b. Reasonable Suspicion Searches
  - c. Consent Searches
  - d. Searches Involving Law Enforcement Officers including SROs



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module III

5. Conducting the Reasonable Suspicion Search
6. Chain of Custody
7. Overview of Legal Justification Required for Student Searches
8. Sample Checklists and Policies

### D. Questioning vs. Interrogation

1. Fifth Amendment
2. Law Enforcement Questioning
3. Educator/SSO Questioning



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module III

### D. Detaining and Arresting

1. SRO Action
2. SSO Action

### E. Physical Intervention

1. Corporal Punishment Unlawful
2. Use of Force Permissible
3. Tips for SSOs



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module III

### F. Other Legal Issues

1. Student Conduct Policies and Due Process
2. Student Conduct Policies and Special Education
3. Information Sharing
4. Victim Rights
5. Freedom of Speech and Expression
6. Key Resources



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module IV

The goal of Module IV is to introduce SROs and SSOs to basics of school safety and incident response planning.



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module IV

### A. School Safety Audits and School Crisis Plans

1. Legal Requirements

2. School Safety Audit

a. Components to Program

b. Recent Findings

3. School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plans

a. Overview of School Crisis Planning in Virginia

b. Key Resources



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module IV

### B. School Safety and Security Assessment

1. Crime Prevention Fundamentals
2. Safety and Security Assessment Process
3. Checklists and Other Resources



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module IV

### C. Critical Incident Planning

1. Overview of Four Phases of Critical Incident Planning
2. Preparedness
3. Response
  - a. Evacuation, Lock-Down, and Shelter-in-Place
  - b. Active Shooter and Other Critical Incidents



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# School Resource Officer Training Program

## Module IV

### E. Examples of Critical Incident Responses

1. Active Shooter
2. Bomb Threat
3. Riot/Mass Disorder
4. Hostage Situation

### F. Threat Assessment



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# Questions?



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