



## MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

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### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

School resource officers are sworn police officers who typically perform a number of community policing roles to make schools safer for students and staff, including:

1. community liaison,
2. mentor,
3. role model, and
4. law enforcement officer.

They also may assist in the development of school policies that concern criminal activity and school safety, as well as teach classes in substance abuse awareness, gang resistance, and crime prevention.

### QUESTION

Of the Connecticut public school districts that have school resource officers (SROs), how many have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or agreement (MOA) with the local police department that employs the SRO?

### SUMMARY

Since SROs are employees of local police departments, OLR surveyed 21 departments that listed SROs on their websites. We also reviewed testimony to the Judiciary Committee on [SB 54](#) (An Act Concerning Collaboration between Boards of Education and Law Enforcement Personnel) that indicated two other departments have SROs.

The survey responses and testimony from 14 of these departments reveal that as of the date of this report:

1. eight have a signed MOU with the school district,
2. three are in the process of drafting an MOU, and
3. three have no MOU or draft in progress.

## MOU/MOA BETWEEN POLICE AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Local police departments and school districts often sign a MOU or MOA that outlines the SRO's job description. These agreements help prevent conflicts or assignments outside the scope of the SRO's duties as a sworn police officer employed by a municipality.

Table 1 describes SRO assignments and MOU/MOA usage among the surveyed police departments and school districts. When available, the table provides a link to the MOU/MOA document.

**Table 1: Local Police SRO Assignments and MOU/MOA Usage\***

<i>Police Department</i>	<i>SRO assignments</i>	<i>MOU/MOA with local school district</i>	<i>Link to MOU/MOA</i>
Berlin	One SRO stationed at the high school.	No, but considering drafting one.	No
Bridgeport	Specific assignments unclear. One lieutenant assigned as full-time liaison between the department and the schools; oversees security at all Bridgeport schools.	Yes	Unavailable
Cromwell	One SRO stationed at the high school.	No, but currently in the process of drafting one.	Draft unavailable
Fairfield	One SRO stationed at each of the two high schools.	Yes	Current copy unavailable; new draft in progress
Farmington	One SRO stationed at both the high school and alternative high school.**	Yes	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Hartford	Specific assignments unclear.	Yes	Copy attached to bill <a href="#">testimony</a>
Manchester	Two SROs stationed at the high school, one at the middle school, and one split between Manchester Regional Academy and the alternative high school.	Yes	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Meriden	Yes	No	No
New London	One SRO stationed at the high school.	No, but currently in the process of drafting one.	Draft unavailable
Newtown	One SRO stationed at the high school and one at the middle school. One youth officer teaches 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grade D.A.R.E.	Yes	<a href="#">Yes</a>
South Windsor	One SRO stationed at high school, one at the middle school, and one rotates among five elementary schools.	Yes	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Torrington	One SRO stationed at the high school.	No, but currently in the process of drafting one.	Draft unavailable
Waterford	One SRO stationed at the high school and one at the middle school.	No	No
Windham	One SRO stationed at the high school.	Yes	<a href="#">Yes</a>

\* Table 1 information is current though date of publication. Annual school district budgets often cause SRO employment to fluctuate in situations where the school district pays the police department for all or some of the SRO's salary.

\*\* Two youth officers also rotate among six elementary and middle schools.

MS/TB:ro