

## School Resource Officers

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December 8, 2022 | 2022-R-0265

### Issue

This report identifies Connecticut towns using school resource officers in their public schools and the associated costs for those officers. It updates OLR Report [2018-R-0094](#).

### Summary

School resource officers (SROs) are sworn police officers who typically perform a number of community policing roles to make schools safer for students and staff, including community liaison, mentor, role model, and law enforcement officer. They also may assist in developing school policies on criminal activity and school safety and teach classes in substance abuse awareness, gang resistance, and crime prevention.

The Office of Legislative Research, with the assistance of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, surveyed and researched 87 public school districts, regional education service centers, and endowed academies in Connecticut to learn whether SROs are used in their elementary, middle, or high schools. Of these, 59 were using SROs in some manner. (Four of the 59 districts have school security staff in addition to SROs. Two other districts use school security instead of SROs.) Financial cost per SRO varies between municipalities and is sometimes unknown to the district. Generally, SROs are funded by the board of education or provided by local police departments through memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the school district.

## SRO Survey Results

Table 1 details which districts use SROs, the number of SROs in each district and their school assignments, the financial cost to the district (if any) per SRO, and the method of funding.

**Table 1: School Resource Officers in Connecticut\***

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
Ansonia	1	Ansonia High School	\$120,000	Paid by school district
Avon	1	Avon High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Barkhamsted	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bethel	3	Bethel High School and Berry School, Rockwell & Johnson School, Bethel Middle School	N/A	Paid by police department
Bozrah	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bridgeport	3	N/A	N/A	Paid by police department
Brooklyn	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canterbury	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cheshire	2	Primarily stationed at the high school and middle school but distributed throughout the district	N/A	Paid by police department
Clinton	1	The Morgan School	N/A	Paid by police department
Colebrook	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cromwell	2	Edna C. Stevens Elementary School and Cromwell High School (1 shared)  Woodside Intermediate and Cromwell Middle School (1 shared)	Approximately \$150,000	Split cost equally between school district and police department
East Granby	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
East Haddam	1	East Haddam Elementary School, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, Nathan Hale-Ray High School (1 shared)	Approximately \$60,000	Funded by police department

**Table 1 (continued)**

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
East Hartford	4	High School/Middle School	N/A	Paid by police department
East Haven	2	East Haven High School, Joseph Melillo Middle School	\$75,000	Paid by police department
East Lyme	1	High school and middle school, but visits elementary schools	N/A	Paid by the town
East Windsor	1	Broad Brook Elementary School, East Windsor Middle School, and East Windsor High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Ellington	2	Ellington High School (1); Ellington Middle School, Center School, Crystal Lake School, Windermere School (1 shared)	\$135,000	Paid by school district
Enfield	4	Enfield High School, JFK Middle School	N/A	Paid by police department
Farmington	3	Farmington High School (1); Irving A. Robbins Middle School, Westwoods Upper Elementary School, East Farms School (1 shared); Noah Wallace School, West District School, Union School (1 shared)	\$95,903	Paid by police department
Gilbert School	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Glastonbury	2	Glastonbury High School, Smith Middle School	N/A	Paid by police department
Goodwin University Magnet School System	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenwich	2	High school	N/A	Paid by police department
Guilford	1	Guilford High School	N/A	\$20,000 contribution by school district; rest paid by police department
Hampton	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hartland	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 1 (continued)**

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
Hebron	1	Gilead Hill School, Hebron Elementary School	N/A	Paid by the town
Killingly	1	Primarily located at Killingly High School, but spends time at the following in descending order: Killingly Intermediate School, Killingly Memorial School, Killingly Central School, Goodyear Early Childhood Center	\$85,250	Paid by school district to the town
LEARN (regional education service center)	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mansfield	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marlborough	1 (starting soon)	Marlborough Elementary School	Approximately \$100,000	Paid by school district and town
Meriden	<a href="#">5</a>	Platt High School, Maloney High School, Lincoln Middle School, Edison Middle School, Washington Middle School	N/A	Paid by police department
Middletown	4	Middletown High School (2), Beman Middle School (2)	N/A	Paid by police department
Monroe	2	Masuk High School, Jockey Hollow Middle School	\$75,000	Paid by police department
Montville	2	Mohegan Elementary, Oakdale Elementary, Dr. Charles E. Murphy Elementary (2 shared)	N/A	Paid by police department (school district pays for school safety officers employed at other schools)
New Britain	2	New Britain High School	N/A	Paid by police department
New Canaan	2	New Canaan High School, Saxe Middle School	\$130,000 (salary \$95,000; benefits \$35,000)	Budgeted in the police department budget and charged to the school as an in-kind service

**Table 1 (continued)**

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
New Hartford	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Newington	1	Newington High School	\$130,000	Paid by school district
Newtown	3	Newtown High School, Newtown Middle School	N/A	Paid by police department
Norfolk	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Haven	7	North Haven High School, North Haven Middle School, Clintonville Elementary School, Green Acres Elementary School, Montowese Elementary School, Ridge Road Elementary School	N/A	Paid by town
Norwalk	5	Brien McMahon/Center for Global Studies, Norwalk High School/P-TECH Norwalk	N/A	Paid by police department
Old Saybrook	3	Goodwin Elementary, Old Saybrook Middle School, Old Saybrook High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Oxford	2	Oxford High School, Oxford Middle School	N/A	Paid by town
Plainville	2	Plainville High School, Middle School of Plainville	N/A	Paid by the town
Plymouth	1	Terryville High School	\$125,000	Paid by police department
Pomfret	0	Pomfret Community School	N/A	(Town constable with no SRO training is paid \$20,000 by the school district)
Portland	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Putnam	1	Shared by 3 schools	N/A	Paid by police department
Region 1	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Region 4	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Table 1 (continued)**

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
Region 5 (Amity)	1, plus 2 shared with Orange	Amity Regional High School (1 Woodbridge officer), Amity Middle School (2 shared with Orange)	Approximately \$90,000 for the Woodbridge officer	Woodbridge officer paid 80% by school district, 20% by police department  2 Orange SROs funded by Orange police department
Region 7	1	Northwestern High School and Middle School	\$43,745	Paid by the town and billed back to the school district
Region 10	1	Primarily stationed at Lewis Mills High School but has a presence at all schools	\$83,500	Paid by school district
Region 11	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Region 12	1	Presence at all schools districtwide (Shepaug, Washington Primary, Booth, Burnham)	\$48,574	Paid by school district
Region 13	1	Coginchaug Regional High School (but travels to all schools)	\$140,000	Paid by school district
Region 14	4	Bethlehem Elementary School, Mitchell Elementary School, Woodbury Middle School, Nonnewaug High School	\$58,000	Paid by school district
Region 15	1	Pomperaug High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Region 19	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Salem	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shelton	3	Shelton High School (1); Shelton Intermediate School, Perry Hill Upper Elementary School (1 shared); Booth Hill, Elizabeth Shelton, Longhill, Mohegan, Sunnyside Elementary Schools (1 shared)	N/A	Paid by police department
Somers	2	N/A	N/A	Funded by town

**Table 1 (continued)**

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
Southington	1	Southington High School	\$63,475 for 180 days	Funded by police department
Sprague	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stafford	1	Districtwide	\$80,000	Funded by school district for salary and associated benefits; police department funds all non-salary related benefits
Suffield	1	Suffield High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Thomaston	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thompson	0	N/A	N/A	(Security Coordinator paid \$55,000 by the school district; three unarmed security officers paid \$18.00 per hour by the town)
Union	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vernon	1	Rockville High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Voluntown	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Waterbury	11	Crosby High School, Wilby High School, John F. Kennedy High School, North End Middle School, Wallace Middle School, West Side Middle School, Enlightenment School, State Street School, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury Career Academy High School	\$54,893.68	Paid by the school district to the police department
Waterford	2	Clark Lane Middle School, Waterford High School	N/A	\$40,000 per officer paid by school district; rest paid by police department

**Table 1 (continued)**

District Name	Number of SROs in the District	SRO Assignments	Yearly Financial Cost to the District (per SRO)	Funding Method
Watertown	2	Watertown High School, Gordon Swift Middle School	N/A	Paid by the police department (however, elementary school has armed security officers paid by the school district)
West Hartford	2	Conard High School, Hall High School	N/A	Paid by police department
Weston	2	Weston Middle School, Weston High School	N/A	Funded by the town
Westport	1	Staples High School	N/A	Funded by police department
Wethersfield	2	Wethersfield High School, Silas Deane Middle School	N/A	Funded by police department
Wilton	2	Wilton High School (1); Middlebrook School, Cider Mill School, Miller-Driscoll School (1 shared)	Approximately \$100,000	One funded by school district, one funded by the town
Winchester	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wolcott	<u>1</u>	Tyrrell Middle School, Wolcott High School	N/A	Funded by police department
Woodbridge	1	Beecher Road School	\$146,000 plus \$9,000 additional (overtime/events)	Funded by school district
Woodstock Academy	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*Table 1 information is current through the date of publication. Annual school district and municipal budgets may cause SRO employment to fluctuate.

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