



ANDERSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 230

GENERAL ORDERS

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

PURPOSE:

This order establishes policies and procedures for the agency's School Resource Officer program.

School Resource Officer (SRO) is defined as a deputy assigned to act as a liaison with the school district and to provide direct services to a school or schools.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office to maintain an SRO program in cooperation with the Anderson County School District. The purpose of the program is to help ensure the security and safety of the schools and to provide a forum through which students, parents, faculty, school administrators, and deputies can become acquainted and, as a result, earn mutual respect. This program will also help demonstrate the agency's focus on service to the youth of our community.

PROGRAM GOALS:

The goals of the School Resource Officer Program are:

1. to provide a timely and effective police response to law enforcement needs that arise in the school setting
2. to identify and proactively intervene to resolve school-related problems and issues
3. to build a better relationship between the police and the youth of our community

The Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the School District(s) recognize that specific needs may vary from school to school. Therefore, to be successful, this program must be flexible and adaptable to the particular needs of different schools. The Sheriff's Office will work closely with School District officials, teachers, parents, and students to determine how to best serve the particular needs of each school.

SRO DUTIES:

The specific duties and assignments of the SRO will be determined by consultation among the Sheriff's Office, School District officials, school administrators and teachers, parents, and students.

Examples of specific duties include, but are not limited to:

Law Enforcement – The SRO will provide direct police services. This includes visible police patrol in and around the school, investigation of crimes that occur on school grounds, response to calls for police service on school grounds, removal or arrest of trespassers or other law breakers on school grounds, advising school officials on security and crime prevention matters, and assistance to other components of the Sheriff's Office investigating school-related crimes. Also, the deputy will be able to utilize his or her expertise to advise and assist school officials investigating infractions of school rules and regulations.

The deputy will also work with the court system and school officials to facilitate the resolution of school-related matters, when appropriate.

Education – The SRO will conduct classes and make classroom presentations or arrange for other police officers and subject matter experts to do so in areas such as drug and alcohol abuse, personal safety, crime prevention, drinking and driving, criminal law and procedures, and law enforcement careers.

Advisement – The SRO will be available to advise students at their request and to meet with them in either a group or individual setting to discuss matters of concern. The deputy will also be available to meet with school staff and parents to advise them on law enforcement matters and student welfare matters. The deputy will be able to direct individuals to other available services and agencies where appropriate. The deputy will be available to participate in parent-teacher conferences, faculty and administrator meetings, and other school events.

Coordination – The SRO will work closely and coordinate activities with officers from other law enforcement agencies performing similar school-related functions in other jurisdictions within the School District.

**PROGRAM
GUIDELINES:**

The following guidelines will apply:

- The SRO will act under the direction and supervision of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. The deputy will consult with school officials regarding day-to-day activities and respond to needs identified by them. School officials and Sheriff's Office management will closely communicate and consult with each other on programmatic and policy matters. The SRO will normally work in uniform as prescribed by Sheriff's Office policy. The officer may work in a non-uniform capacity, if appropriate, based upon the nature of the particular event or the function being performed. Authorization for the SRO to work in a non-uniform capacity may be granted by the unit supervisor, Deputy Chief or the Sheriff.
- The SRO will not act as a school disciplinarian nor will he or she be responsible for enforcement of school rules and regulations. However, the officer may advise and assist school officials in the performance of these functions and assist in the maintenance of order on school grounds.
- The Sheriff's Office may change an SRO's assignment or assign him or her to non-school duties to deal with any law enforcement exigencies or needs that may arise. When working at a school, the SRO may leave the school to respond to emergency or urgent situations.
- All police activity conducted by the SRO will be done in accordance with the rules, regulations, policies and procedures, and general

orders of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and pertinent legal requirements.

- The SRO will prepare and submit activity reports, progress reports or other information and statistics as required by the Sheriff's Office or school administrators.
- When school is not in session, the Sheriff will designate the duties and responsibilities of the SRO.

SRO SELECTION:

SRO positions will be filled and administered according to agency procedures. (*See ACSO Personnel Manual – Job Descriptions and Assignment.*)

Approved by:
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff