

BEST PRACTICES: THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SCHOOL SAFETY [630]

Panelists

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Panel Session Plan

Panel Summary

Law enforcement officers play a key role in school safety. But how does law enforcement work most effectively with school staff and other partners to implement the vision of safe schools and healthy students? This session will explore how the School Resource Officer (SRO) and other law enforcement officers in schools can play a key partner role in achieving safe schools.

This session, co-presented by two safe schools specialists and two School Resource Officers, will identify the law enforcement and administrative issues involved, uncover the challenges SROs face in schools, and discuss strategies for how to overcome these challenges. The session will also share resource organizations to help law enforcement and school partners work more effectively together. The presentation will feature lessons learned from the Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative, which is supported by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Justice.

Panel Goals

At the end of the session, participants will be able to

- Name five crime-related behaviors that come to schools;
- Name three issues involved in law enforcement-school partnerships;
- Identify four challenges related to law enforcement working in schools;
- Explain four effective strategies whereby SROs and school administrators can work to overcome these challenges more effectively with school administrators; and
- Define three roles of the SRO.

Panel Outline

This panel helps reach a couple of the key objectives of the Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence conference: 1) increasing synergy and fostering partnerships; and 2) highlighting community collaborations.

I. What are the issues involved in law enforcement-school partnerships? (Rosiak et al.)

- What are the crime-related behaviors that come to school (aggressive/violent behavior, bullying, child abuse, domestic violence, drugs, gangs, graffiti, loitering, theft, self-destructive behavior, vandalism, carrying weapons)
- What are other law enforcement issues related to schools? (handling dangerous behavior, school security, crisis planning and management, safety policies, homeland security issues, educational programs, partnership issues)

II. What are the challenges to a successful working relationship between schools and law enforcement? (Panel)

- Understanding the differences between law enforcement and school jobs, cultures, and expectations
- Communications between law enforcement and schools
- Perceptions the school and community have about law enforcement
- Defining the role of the SRO in the school community
- Selection, training, and retention of SROs
- Being clear who the SRO works for
- Showing the connection of safe schools to academic achievement
- Dealing with jurisdiction issues when multiple law enforcement agencies are involved
- Understanding what data can be shared

III. What are the best practices for helping law enforcement overcome the challenges and work more effectively together in creating safe schools? (Panel)

To help make schools safe and healthy for students, law enforcement can —

● Provide leadership by

- Defining who participates in the process and how they participate
- Recognizing that different levels can lead
- Appreciating different styles of leadership and delegation
- Naming the shared vision among partners
- Serving as experts in enforcement topics such as searches, drugs, weapons
- Showing mutual trust and respect

● Work as a partner by

- Using MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) to define procedures, responsibilities, and roles—the SRO is not the vice principal
- Educating staff, as well as students, about law-related topics
- Educating staff and students how and when to contact law enforcement
- Engaging in learning from other partners, as well as teaching them
- Identifying where the law enforcement officer’s roles intersect with juvenile justice officers, mental health, and school staff

- Deterring problems through presence
 - Assisting in screening staff and volunteers with background checks
 - Finding ways law enforcement can get into schools (e.g. bringing in the K-9 dogs to educate, which can lead to being a resource on other issues such as drugs and gangs)
 - Carrying out the various roles of the SRO Triad Model—Teacher, Counselor, and Law Enforcement Officer; teaching law-related education; being a problem solver/diffuser/resource liaison dealing with issues like truancy; serving as public safety/security crime expert (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design or CPTED); and sharing information
 - Engaging in proactive activities such as: meetings, consultations, mediation, referrals, follow-up, in-service and other presentations; teaching; and patrols
- Hire/train/evaluate the right officer for the job of working in schools by
 - Involving school administrators in the interview process
 - Recruiting and choosing the law enforcement officer for qualities important in schools
 - Choosing someone who really cares about children and youth
 - Ensuring that the law enforcement officer is a role model for young people
 - Providing training opportunities for the officer to enhance skills
 - Evaluating the law enforcement officers on their full duties, including prevention, intervention, and enforcement activities in school
- Work in partnership with school staff and others by
 - Sharing information with schools using multiple agency agreements. Sharing data across law enforcement jurisdictions.
 - Communicating about students re-entering school from juvenile programs
 - Knowing and sharing state laws on sharing information about adjudicated youth
 - Sharing observations about the communities from which the students come (e.g. to help understand the children better, and to provide Safe Corridors from home to school)
 - Making referrals to mental health partners
 - Listening to observations teachers have about warning signs
 - Sharing experience with school staff (about searches, drugs, threat assessment, truancy strategies)
 - Conducting joint training with school/city/county police and other partners (on such topics as verbal judo, school crisis)

Resources

Resource handout on informational resources on law enforcement/school partnership from the National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention.

Assessment

Training topic: Panel on Best Practices: the Role of Law Enforcement in School Safety

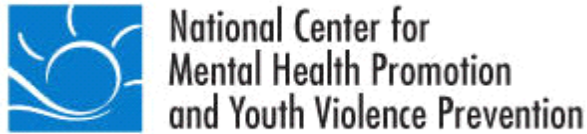
Evaluation Form

Panelists: John Rosiak, Joe Goralczyk, Mindy Schuman, and Darryl Marshall

Please rate the overall training by circling a number for each statement.

	Strongly Agree		Somewhat Agree		Strongly Disagree
I was satisfied with the quality of the panel.	1	2	3	4	5
I found the panel useful to my work.	1	2	3	4	5
I will be able to incorporate material from the panel into my work.	1	2	3	4	5
The presenters had adequate knowledge of the topics covered.	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation of the material was understandable.	1	2	3	4	5
My questions/needs were addressed.	1	2	3	4	5
The opportunity to actively participate in and practice curriculum components was helpful.	1	2	3	4	5
The handouts provided were helpful.	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:



School Safety / Security and Law Enforcement

www.promoteprevent.org --> [Resources & Publications](#) --> [Resource Pages](#) --> School Safety/Security and Law Enforcement

This Resource Page describes sources of information on maintaining school safety and security as well as resources that help schools, law enforcement agencies, and other partners work together to address this issue. Other Resource Pages related to these topics include

- [Violence Prevention for Schools](#)
- [Bullying and Bullying Prevention](#)
- [Preparing for and Responding to Crises in Schools](#)

Websites

[Community Oriented Policing Services \(COPS\)](#)

(<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>) is a Department of Justice program that works to build partnerships between law enforcement agencies and schools and help partnerships use community policing and School Resource Officers to prevent school violence. The School Safety: Guides and Reports section of this website includes publications and resources on school resource officer programs, bomb threats, assessing school-related crimes, school safety, and vandalism. The School Safety: Links to Other Resources section features resources such as School COP, free software that helps schools analyze and map incidents that occur in and around schools, and links to school safety information available from other agencies and organizations, such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the National Association of Police Athletic Leagues.

[National Association of School Resource Officers \(NASRO\)](#)

(<http://www.nasro.org>) provides services and training to assist school districts in developing school safety programs and law enforcement partnerships. The NASRO website offers news and resources for school resource officers, including a Library of Contracts and Forms that includes general contracts, job descriptions, memoranda of understanding, a Field Training and Officer Manual, Class Evaluation forms, and other materials. The Library also offers a Traffic Safety and Education Toolkit for School Resource Officers.

[National Center for Law Enforcement School Violence Resource Center](#)

(<http://www.svrc.net/default.htm>) is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to reduce violence in schools. It includes a School Resource Officer (SRO) Desk Reference providing model policies and procedures, guidelines for conducting student searches, and information on bomb threats, gang identification, bullying, mentoring, and drug education. The SRO Resources section of the website contains additional resources for school resource officers.

[National Criminal Justice Reference Service \(NCJRS\)](#) (<http://www.ncjrs.gov/>) is a Federally-funded resource that offers reference and referral services to answer questions about crime and justice-related research, policy, and practice. Two important resources available on the NCJRS website are:

- **[NCJRS Abstracts Database](#)** (<http://www.ncjrs.gov/abstractdb/search.asp>) contains over 185,000 publications, reports, congressional hearing transcripts, training materials, and other resources. The library includes many resources on law enforcement and school safety,

including Role of Law Enforcement in Public School Safety: A National Survey, and Comparison of Program Activities and Lessons Learned Among 19 School Resource Officer (SRO) Programs.

- [In The Spotlight: School Safety](http://www.ncjrs.gov/spotlight/school_safety/Summary.html) (http://www.ncjrs.gov/spotlight/school_safety/Summary.html) section of the NCJRS website contains links and publications organized around Facts & Figures, Legislation, Publications, Training and Technical Assistance, Grants & Funding, and Related Resources. Publications include Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005; Effectiveness of School-Based Violence Prevention Programs for Reducing Disruptive and Aggressive Behavior; SRO Performance Evaluation: A Guide to Getting Results, and 2004 NASRO School Resource Officer Survey.

National School Safety Center (NSSC)

(<http://www.nssc1.org>) provides information, resources, and training and technical assistance for schools and school safety partners on preventing violence and crime. The website identifies strategies and promising practices and programs that support safe schools. NSSC also offers a number of resources to help schools manage and respond to the threat of terrorism.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

(<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov>) is an office within the U.S. Department of Justice that works to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. The School Safety section of the OJJDP website includes publications and resources on issues including safe schools policies, school re-entry, school resource officer training, school crime watch programs, and truancy prevention.

Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools

(<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/index.html>) is an office of the U.S. Department of Education Web site dedicated to drug and violence prevention and safer and healthier schools. The Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools website provides information and U.S. Department of Education publications on topics including emergency planning, truancy prevention, and implementing the Gun Free Schools Act. It also indexes and links to useful publications on school safety and security from other U.S. Department of Education programs and offices.

School Safety Centers

A number of state departments of education have funded state school safety centers that provide technical assistance and resources on school safety and security, violence prevention, bullying, emergency preparedness and response, and how schools and law enforcement agencies can work together. While technical assistance is usually only available to schools and districts located in the same state as the safety center, many of the other resources and publications are available to anyone. An interactive map and linked list of school safety centers can be found at [SafetyZone](http://www.safetyzone.org/state_centers.html) (http://www.safetyzone.org/state_centers.html).

Publications Available Online

Publications Available Online from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CPSV)

CSPV at the University of Colorado (<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/index.html>) offers a number of publications on school safety and security. These include factsheets (available at <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets.html>) on

- Creating a Crisis Plan
- Implementing An Effective School Resource Officer Program
- Responding to Violence in Schools
- Safe School Planning
- Recommendations for Safe School Plans
- Community Policing, Schools, and Mental Health

- Gun Control Efforts (policy statement)
- Student Profiling (policy statement)

Publications Available Online from ERIC

These short publications from ERIC focus on school security and safety.

Trends and Issues: School Safety (http://eric.uoregon.edu/trends_issues/safety/index.html)

Eugene, OR: Clearinghouse on Educational Policy and Management, 2001

A discussion of strategies and methods for safeguarding schools from violent incidents, including discussions of student profiling, building security, sentences for juvenile offenders, and school-based intervention and prevention programs.

Newer Technologies for School Security

(<http://eric.uoregon.edu/publications/digests/digest145.html>) (ERIC Digest 145 - February 2001) by Tod Schneider.

This short publication discusses several categories of technology that can be used to deter intruders in schools, including keys and smart cards, metal detectors, alarm systems, and surveillance equipment.

The Fundamentals of School Security

(<http://eric.uoregon.edu/publications/digests/digest132.html>) (ERIC Digest 132 - November 1999) by Joan Gaustad.

Topics discussed in this ERIC Digest include assessing school security, making facilities more secure, attitudes and behaviors that promote security, and the importance of crisis response planning.

Safer Schools Through Environmental Design

(<http://eric.uoregon.edu/publications/digests/digest144.html>) (ERIC Digest 144 - January 2001) by Tod Schneider.

This publication explores Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), a strategy that creates desired behavior through specific environmental changes, including natural surveillance, natural access control, and territoriality (establishing recognized authority over an environment as well as a sense of belonging).

Publications Available Online from The Safety Zone

(<http://www.safetyzone.org/index.html>)

The Safety Zone's Safe and Secure: Guides To Creating Safer Schools

(http://www.safetyzone.org/safe_secure.html) is a series of guidebooks developed by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory to provide schools and school districts with information and resources supporting comprehensive safe school planning efforts. The books in this series include:

- Guide 1: Creating Schoolwide Preventions and Intervention Strategies
- Guide 2: School Policies and Legal Issues Supporting Safe Schools
- Guide 3: Implementing Ongoing Staff Development To Enhance Safe Schools
- Guide 4: Ensuring Quality School Facilities And Security Technologies
- Guide 5: Fostering School-Law Enforcement Partnerships
- Guide 6: Instituting School-based Links with Mental Health and Social Service Agencies
- Guide 7: Fostering School, Family, And Community Involvement
- Guide 8: Acquiring and Utilizing Resources To Enhance And Sustain A Safe Learning Environment.

Publications Available Online from the Secret Service Safe Schools Initiative at the National Threat Assessment Center (http://www.ustras.gov/usss/ntac_ssi.shtml)

These materials include

- Final Report and Findings: Implications for Prevention of School Attacks in the United States
- Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates.
- United States Secret Service Safe School Initiative: An Interim Report on the Prevention of Targeted Violence in Schools
- Evaluating Risk for Targeted Violence in Schools

Other Publications Available Online

[The Appropriate and Effective Use of Security Technologies in U.S. Schools: A Guide for Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/178265.htm) (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/178265.htm>). Washington, DC: National Institute for Justice, 1999.

This guide helps school administrators and law enforcement officials analyze a school's vulnerability to violence, theft, and vandalism, and technologies to address these problems. The publication offers guidance on security concepts and operational issues, video surveillance, weapons detection devices, entry controls, and duress alarms.

[Building Security Into Schools](http://www.aasa.org/publications/saarticledetail.cfm?ItemNumber=3861&snItemNumber=950&tnItemNumber=951)

(<http://www.aasa.org/publications/saarticledetail.cfm?ItemNumber=3861&snItemNumber=950&tnItemNumber=951>) by John Kosar and S. Farliq Ahmed. School Administer. February 2000. An introduction to school safety through design of the physical environment and security hardware.

[Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2005](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iscs05.htm)

(<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iscs05.htm>) Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, 2005.

This annual report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It also provides detailed statistical information on the nature of crime in schools, school environments, and responses to violence and crime at school.

[Safe Schools Manual: A Resource on Making Schools, Communities, and Families Safe for Children](http://www.nea.org/schoolsafety/safeschoolsmanual.html) (<http://www.nea.org/schoolsafety/safeschoolsmanual.html>) Washington, DC:

National Education Association, 2005

This publication synthesizes the research on school safety and offers guidelines on making children safe in schools, communities, and families. The first section discusses establishing a school safety committee, developing and implementing action and crisis management plans, and monitoring and assessing progress. The second section discusses involving community leaders, forming a community safety committee, and conducting a survey. The third section discusses working with parents. Appendices include school safety checklists, action plans for various types of emergencies, school crime, vandalism, and violence reporting forms.

For an online version of these resources, please visit:

http://www.promoteprevent.org/resources/resource_pages/program_functions/law_enforcement.t.htm