

# A Discussion on the Role of School Resource Officers in School Safety and a Review of the Averted School Violence Database

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- For support during the Webinar, **please contact the REMS TA Center** at **info@remstacenter.org** or **1-855-781-REMS (7367)**.
- You are invited to **participate in a 30-minute Twitter Chat** after the Webinar via the Community of Practice.
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# A Discussion on the Role of School Resource Officers in School Safety and a Review of the Averted School Violence Database

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# Housekeeping

- To download a copy of pertinent handouts, use the **Web links** on your screen. Select the name of the link you want to access.
- There is no dial-in for this Webinar. **Audio is available via the link provided**. If you are experiencing difficulty hearing the audio stream, make sure your computer speaker volume is turned up.
- If you experience technical difficulties during the Webinar, please contact the REMS TA Center at **info@remstacenter.org** or 1-855-781-REMS (7367). You may also request technical assistance using the **Q&A Pod**. These questions are viewable to the Webinar moderator only.

# Questions & Answers

Questions  
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Questions  
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Webinar?

Please submit to  
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# Presenters



Madeline Sullivan, Management and Program Analyst, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools



Mo Canady, Executive Director, National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)

Elizabeth Simpson, Analyst, U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office



Jeff Allison, COPS Office and International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)



Dr. Frank Straub, Director, Center for Mass Violence Response Studies, National Police Foundation



Janelle W. Hughes, Deputy Project Director, REMS TA Center

# Agenda

## Defining and Managing School Violence

- Understanding the Role of School Resource Officers (SROs)
- Learning from Averted and Completed School Attacks
- Using the COPS Office and Federal Resources to Support SROs
- Questions and Answers

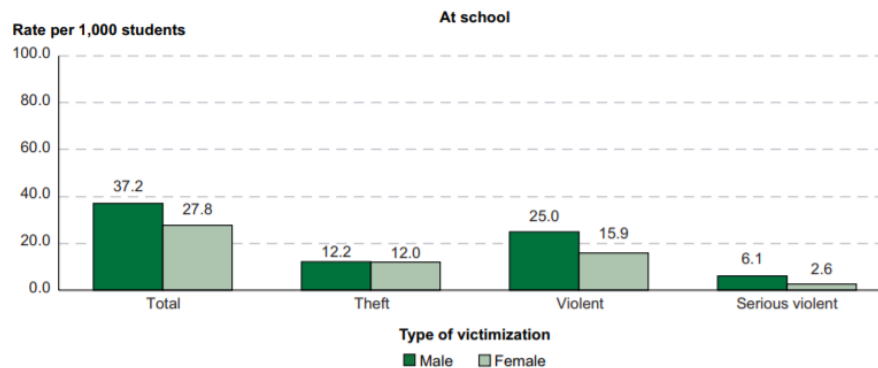
# Indicators of School Crime and Safety

**“...it is difficult to gauge the scope of crime and violence in schools given the large amount of attention devoted to isolated incidents of extreme school violence.”**

U.S. Department of Education,  
*Indicators of School Crime and Safety*

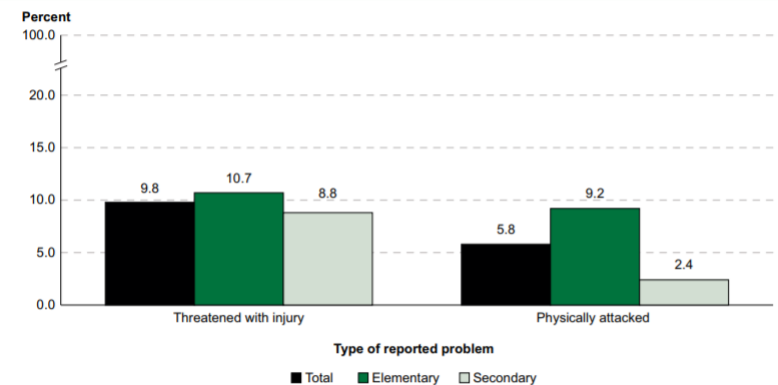
# How is School Violence Defined?

Figure 2.2. Rate of nonfatal victimization against students ages 12–18 per 1,000 students, by location, type of victimization, and sex: 2017

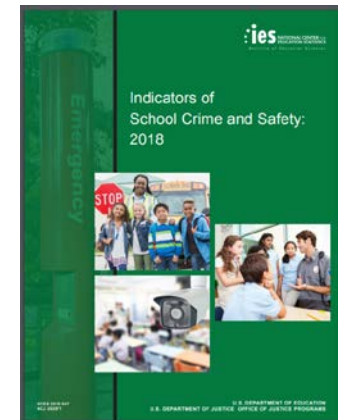


- Threat of attack with a physical weapon
- Robbery or Theft
- Hate crimes
- Active shooters
- Sexual harassment

Figure 5.3. Percentage of public school teachers who reported that they were threatened with injury or that they were physically attacked by a student from school during the previous 12 months, by instructional level: School year 2015–16

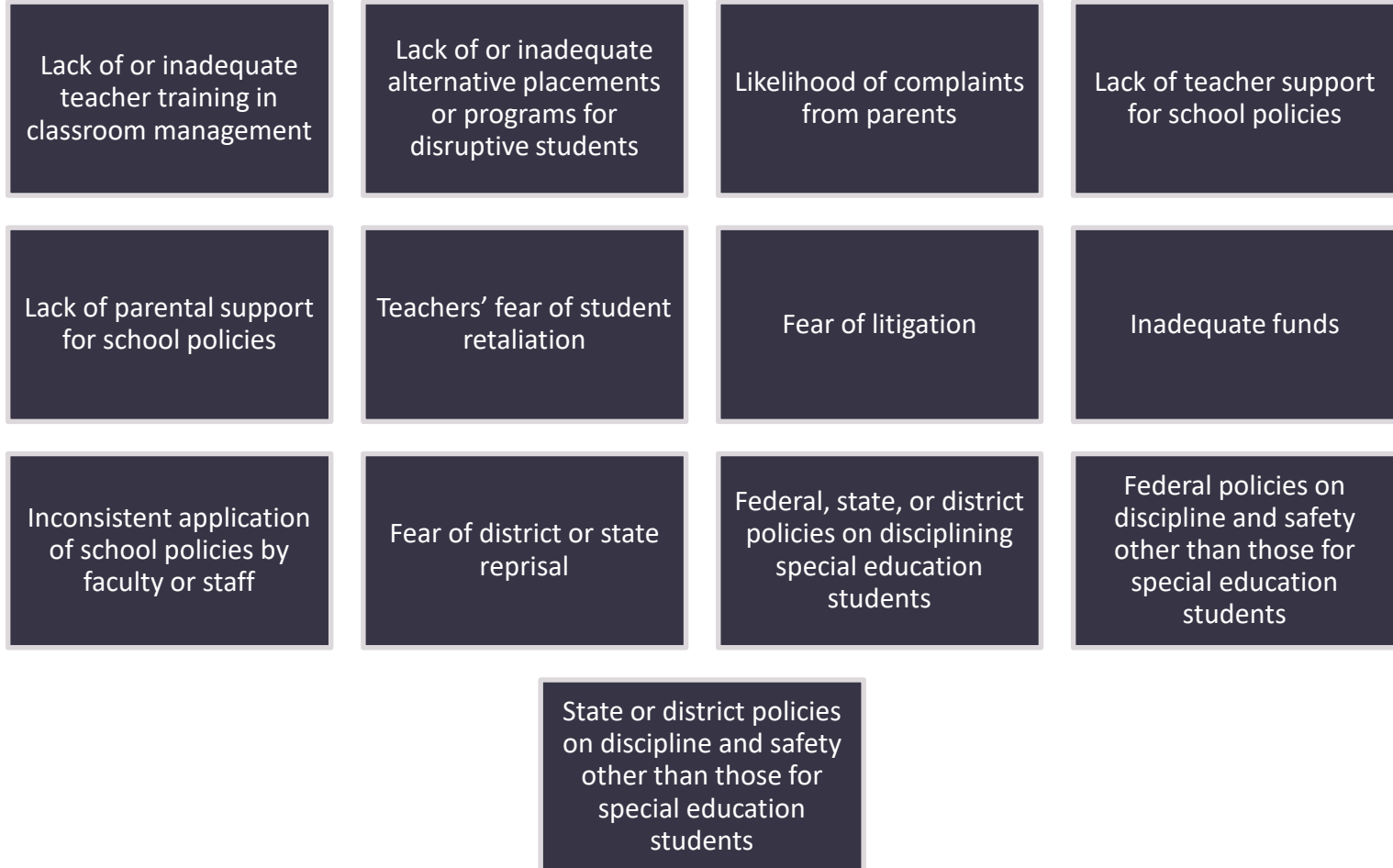


- Bullying
- Gang activities
- Hostages
- Bomb threats
- Suicide
- Threats on the bus





# Common Concerns Specific to School Violence



Source: Indicators of School Crime and Safety

# A National Focus on School Violence

## Multiple Partners

- Federal Commission on School Safety Formed (ED, DOJ, DHS, HHS)
- School-Associated Violent Death Surveillance System, (ED, DOJ, CDC)
- National Crime Victimization Survey and School Crime Supplement (DOJ and ED)

## U.S. Department of Education

- Schools and Staffing Survey
- National Teacher and Principal Survey
- School Survey on Crime and Safety
- Fast Response Survey System
- Campus Safety and Security Survey

## U.S. Department of Justice

- Averted School Violence Database
- Studies of Active Shooter Incidents

## U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Understanding School Violence Fact Sheet

# Federal Commission on School Safety Recommendations

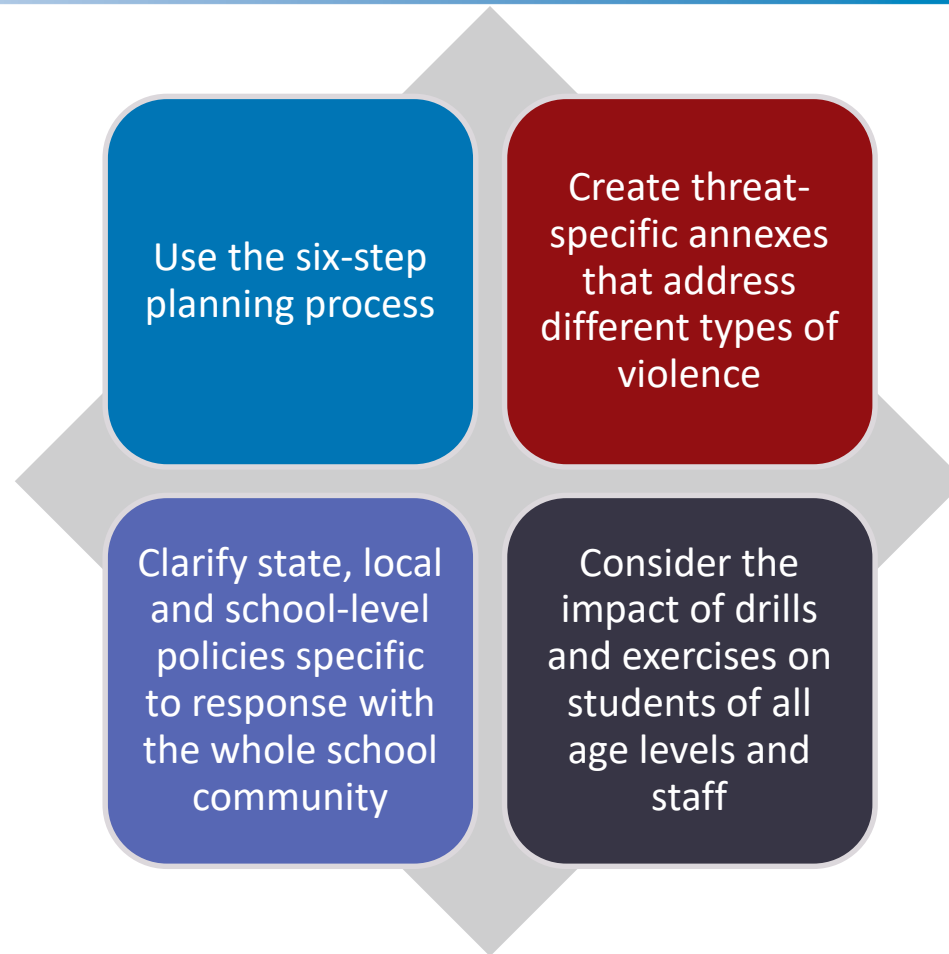
In the context of school violence and in general, the work of the Commission falls into three broad categories:

**Prevent**—  
preventing school  
violence

**Protect and  
Mitigate**—  
protecting students  
and teachers and  
mitigating the  
effects of violence

**Respond and  
Recover**—  
responding to and  
recovering from  
attacks

# Integrating Efforts to Address School Violence in EOPs



# Agenda

Defining and Managing School Violence

- Understanding the Role of School Resource Officers (SROs)

- Learning from Averted and Completed School Attacks

- Using the COPS Office and Federal Resources to Support SROs

- Questions and Answers

# School Resource Officer

A School Resource Officer is a career law enforcement officer, with sworn authority, deployed in community oriented policing, assigned by the employing police department or agency to work in collaboration with schools.

# Roles of a SRO



# SROs as Positive Role Models

Good moral standards

Good judgment and discretion

Consistency and fairness

Respect for students and peers

Sincere concern for the school and community



**SROs are held to a higher standard!**



# Goals of an SRO Program

Bridge the gap between officers and young people.

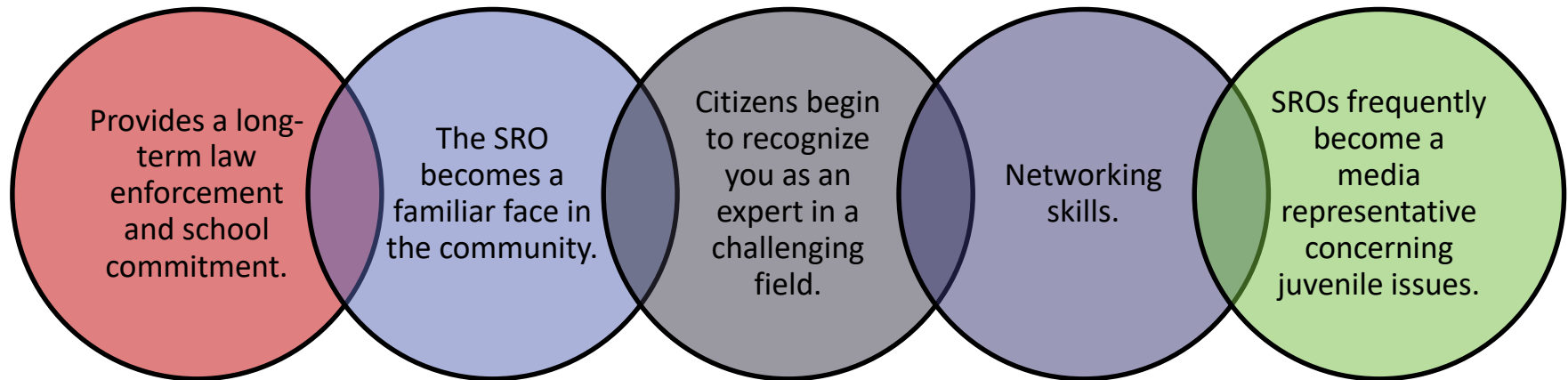
Increase positive attitudes towards law enforcement.

Teach the value of our legal system.

Promote respect for people and property.

Reduce juvenile delinquency by helping students formulate an awareness of rules, authority and justice.

# Benefits of the SRO Program



*The SRO program is community oriented policing at its best!*

# SRO Programs Work Because...

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SROs have a genuine interest in working with youth

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SROs have an understanding of the school community

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SROs have daily contact and involvement with the staff and students

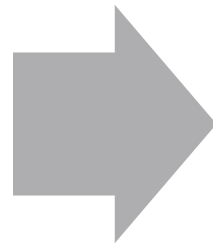
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SROs and Principals have a shared interest in maintaining a safe school environment

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# Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Interagency  
Collaboration is  
foundational to the  
success of an SRO  
program.



The MOU is a written  
agreement between  
the school district and  
the law enforcement  
agency providing the  
guidelines for the  
program.

# Wisconsin v. Angelia D.B (1997)

- **Student told Principal that Angelia had a knife**
- **Principal summoned SRO**
- **SRO conducted a pat-down (negative results)**
- **Locker searched by principal (negative results)**
- **Angelia removed jacket, lifted shirt**
- **Knife recovered from her waistband**

# Wisconsin v. Angelia D.B (1997) (cont.)

- **Defense filed motion to suppress**
- **Said the search was “*highly intrusive*” and not supported by “*probable cause*”**
- **Defense also said “*duties of police and school officials are inherently different*”**
- **State said “*school officials need to maintain a safe and proper educational environment*”**

# Wisconsin v. Angelia D.B (1997) (cont.)

- **Court upheld the search**
- **Noted the SRO was full time, had an office, worked closely with school officials**
- **Said “*official responsibilities of SRO is to assist school officials in maintaining safe learning environment*”**
- **SRO is qualified to conduct weapon searches, school officials are not**

# Partnership Considerations

## The Triad Concept

- How will interview and arrest procedures be handled?
- The SRO's role (or lack of it) in formal school discipline.

## Information Sharing

- U.S. Department of Education
- School Resource Officers, School Law Enforcement Units, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- [studentprivacy.ed.gov](http://studentprivacy.ed.gov)

## Additional Considerations

- Uniforms
- Weapons
- Less Lethal Tools



# Properly Selected and Trained

Without proper training SROs can make serious mistakes that at best cause short-term difficulties and at worse jeopardize the entire SRO program.

Likes kids and has a desire to work with kids.

Possesses people skills (can be calm and approachable).

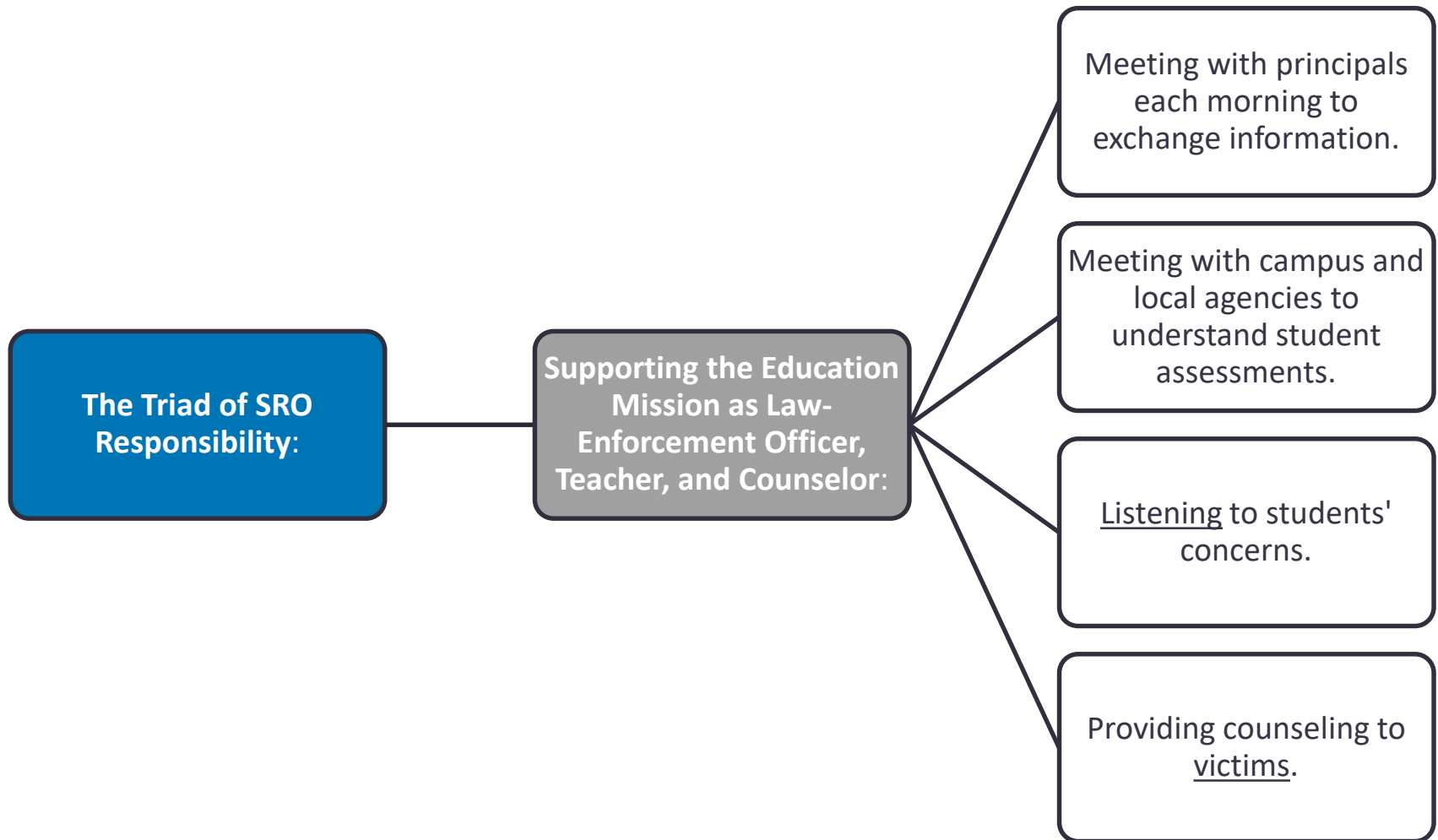
Law enforcement experience ( 3 years)

High standard of morals and integrity.

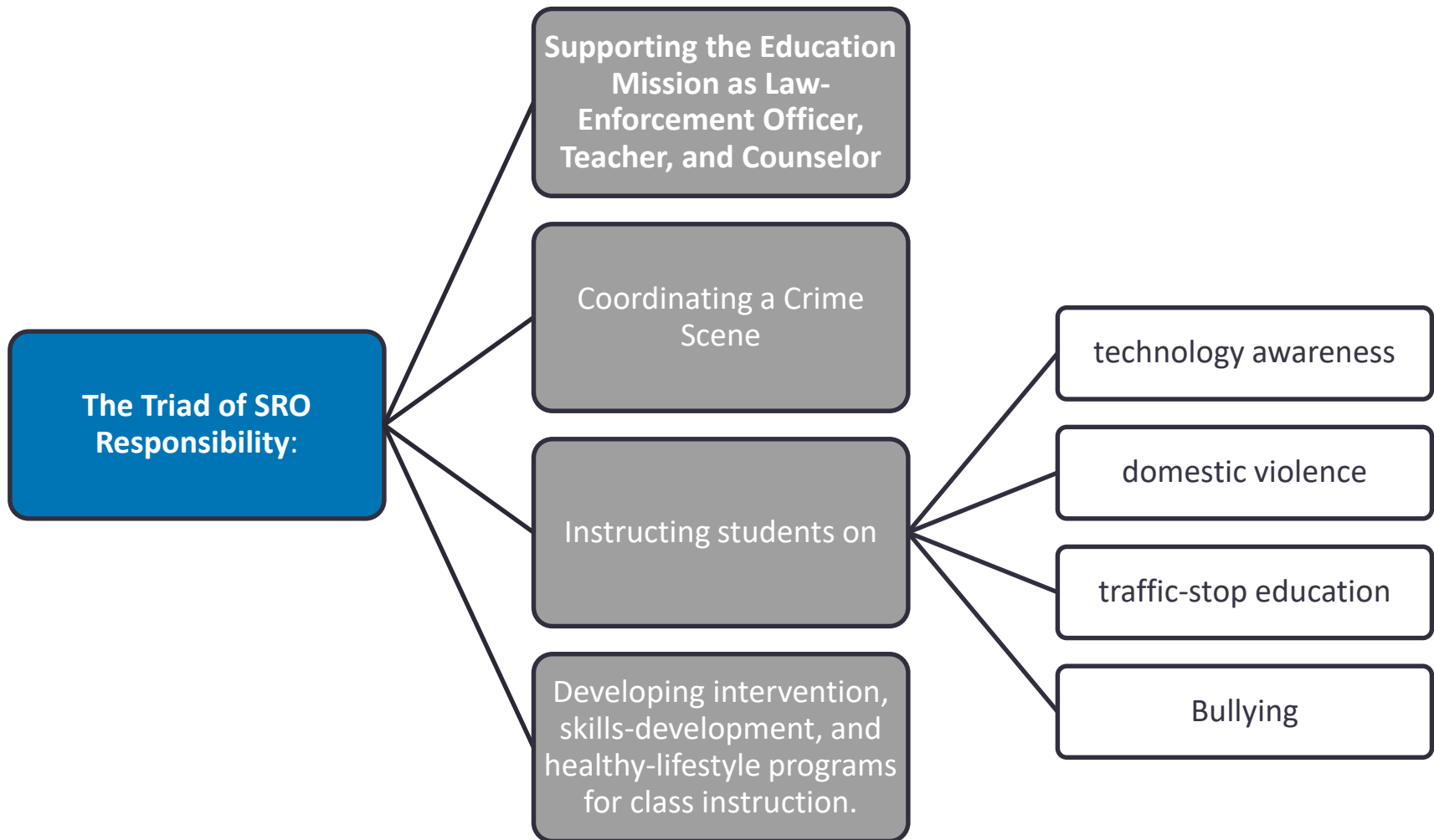
# SRO Triad Concept



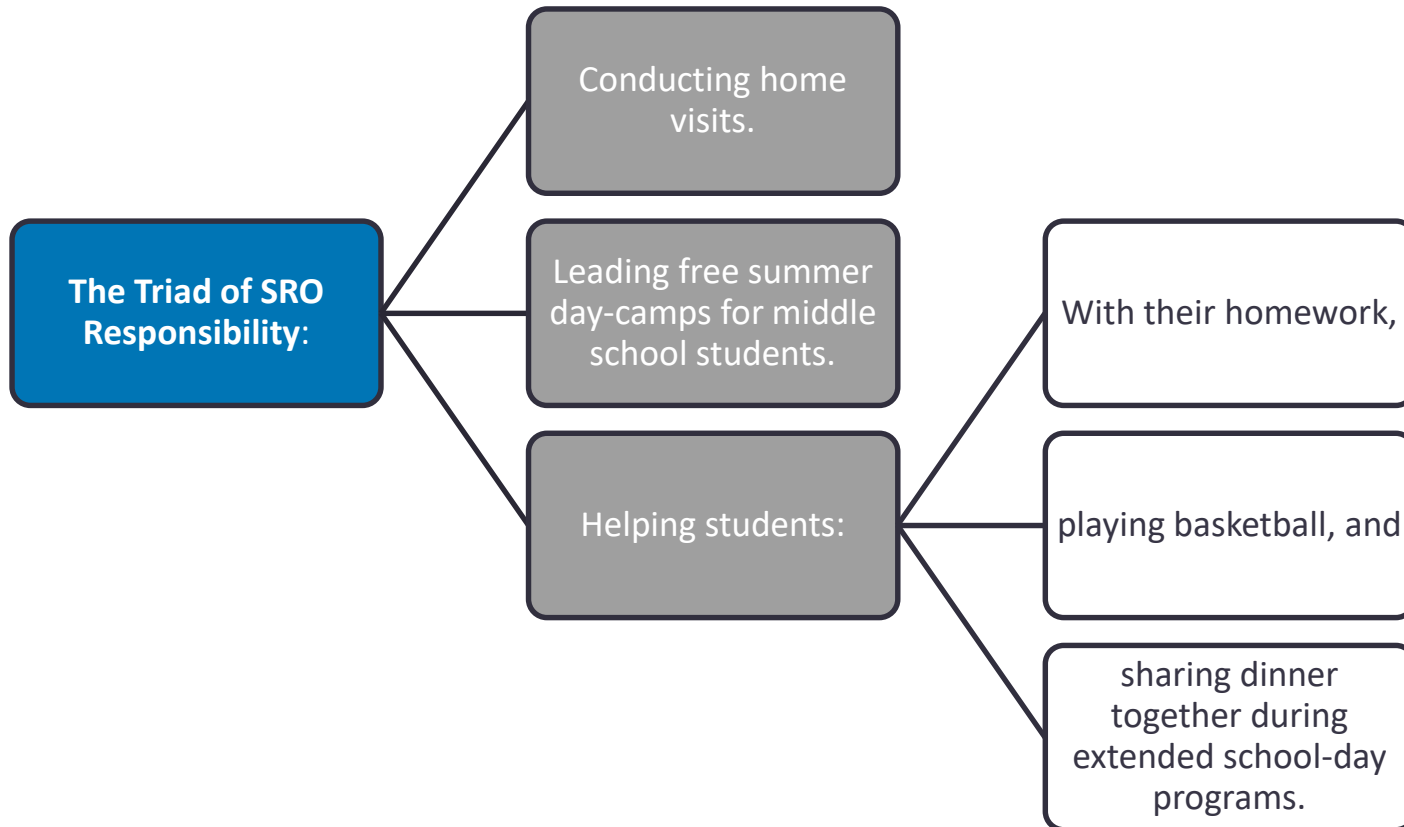
# The SRO's Role on Campus



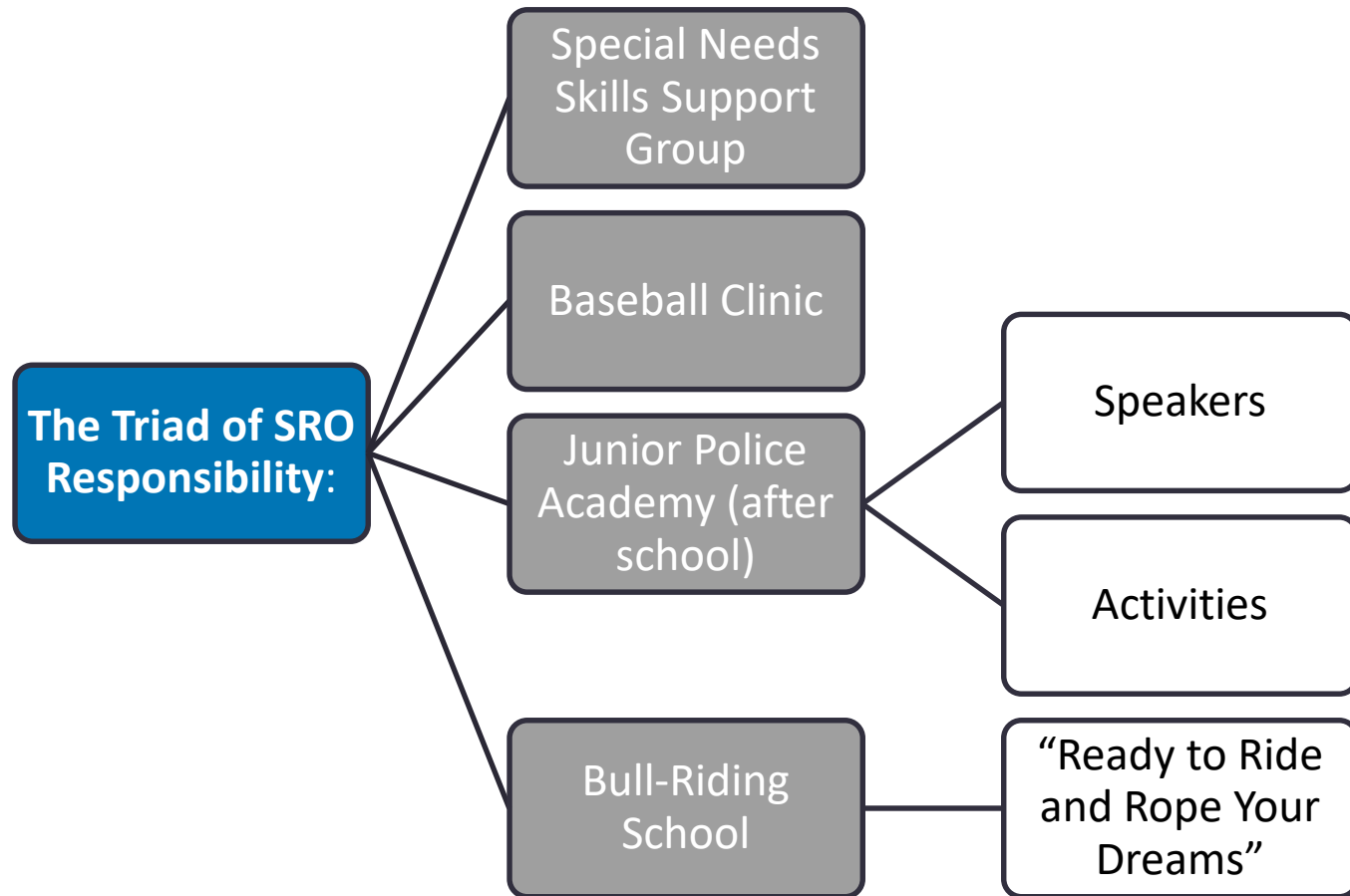
# The SRO's Role on Campus (cont.)



# The SRO's Role on Campus (cont.)



# The SRO's Role on Campus (cont.)



# Facts and Data

Over the past **two decades**, America's public schools have become safer and safer.



All indicators of school crime continue on the **downward trend**.

- school-associated deaths
- violence
- nonfatal victimizations
- theft

# Facts and Data (cont.)

This trend mirrors that of **juvenile arrests**:

- Fell nearly **50%** between 1994 and 2009.
- Fell **17%** between 2000 and 2009 alone.

This period of time coincides with the expansion of  
**School Resource Officer programs**

2011 National Center for Education Statistics & Bureau of Justice Statistics,  
Indicators of School Crime and Safety



# NASRO National School Safety Conference

## Annual School Safety Conference

Approximately 1000 attendees

Five days of training and networking

Keynote presenters

Numerous breakout training sessions

Exhibit hall

Networking and social events

JOIN US IN 2020  
National Association of  
School Resource Officers

**NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

**TEXAS**

July 5-10, 2020  
Hilton Anatole  
Dallas, Texas

The poster features a night view of the Reunion Tower and the Margaret Hunt Browning Bridge in Dallas, Texas, with city lights reflected in the water. It includes the NASRO logo (National Association of School Resource Officers) and the TASRO logo (Texas Association of School Resource Officers).

# Agenda

## Defining and Managing School Violence

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# Objectives

Provide an overview of the Averted School Violence (ASV) initiative and its relevance to K – 12 schools and higher education

Provide select results and key takeaways from two analyses of data collected through the ASV initiative

Discuss the ASV database










# Averted School Violence (ASV) Initiative and Database

Funded by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)

Value in studying averted *and* completed acts of violence in schools

- More attacks are prevented than completed
- Contain insight into the effectiveness of school safety practices, systems, and training
- Common safety practice in other industries



**POLICE FOUNDATION** Advancing Policing Through Innovation and Science

**ASV AVERTED SCHOOL VIOLENCE**  
LESSONS LEARNED BECOME LESSONS APPLIED

The Averted School Violence (ASV) project is an effort to encourage law enforcement officers, school officials, mental health professionals, and others involved in school safety nationwide to share information and lessons learned on averted and completed school violence incidents. Its purpose is to analyze these incidents in order to identify lessons learned and recommendations that can be implemented to improve school safety and ultimately prevent future attacks.

With funding support from NJ and the COPS Office, the Police Foundation has developed an online data collection system and incident report library, which allow individuals to anonymously share and view reported incidents of averted and completed school violence. By collecting this data and creating an information-sharing environment for those involved in school safety, the Police Foundation seeks to increase the body of knowledge around successful school violence prevention strategies.

**Definition of averted school violence incident**

The Police Foundation defines an averted school violence incident as a violent attack planned with or without the use of a firearm, that was prevented either before or after the potential perpetrator arrived on school grounds, before any injury or loss of life occurred. The Police Foundation only collects incidents that occurred in the United States after the Columbine tragedy in 1999.

**ASV reporting process**

- An individual completes an incident report form at [www.asvnearmiss.org](http://www.asvnearmiss.org).
- School safety subject matter experts remove identifying information as necessary, and provide additional lessons learned and/or recommendations.
- The Police Foundation publishes the report into the report library at [www.asvnearmiss.org](http://www.asvnearmiss.org), searchable and categorized by fields such as type of school, means of plot discovery, and more.

**Benefits of submitting and viewing ASV reports**

- Averted and carried out school attacks can provide insights into the effectiveness of existing school safety efforts nationwide.
- The ASV incident report library contains valuable information related to school security, averted attackers, successful discovery and prevention of attacks, lessons learned, and recommendations.
- ASV incident reports can help prevent future violence when relevant lessons learned and recommendations are implemented into the training, policy, and procedure of those who play a role in school safety.

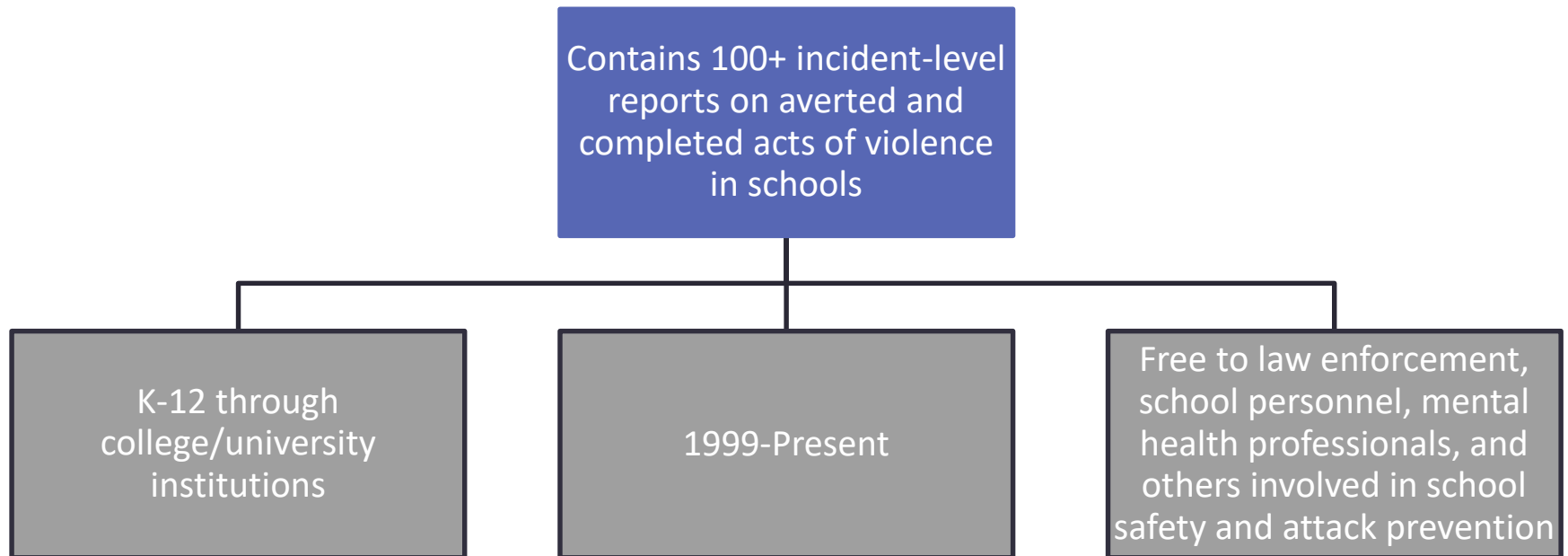
**To submit or view reports, please visit:**  
[www.asvnearmiss.org](http://www.asvnearmiss.org)

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 2014-OK-WX-K223 awarded by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. References to specific agencies, companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Further, the references are illustrative to supplement discussion of the issues.

[www.policefoundation.org](http://www.policefoundation.org) | 202.833.1460 | Follow us on Twitter @PoliceFound

# How the Police Foundation Studies Averted School Violence

National database and resource:  
[www.avertedschoolviolence.org](http://www.avertedschoolviolence.org)



# ASV Database

([www.avertedschoolviolence.org](http://www.avertedschoolviolence.org))

Can share information on averted attacks and prevention strategies



HOME SUBMIT A REPORT BROWSE REPORTS REPORT DATA ABOUT PUBLICATIONS





# Report Review Process

Report is reviewed and identifying information is removed

Report is published in  
“Browse Reports” section

Only vetted individuals can  
view incident-level reports

The screenshot displays a website navigation bar with the following menu items: HOME, SUBMIT A REPORT, BROWSE REPORTS, REPORT DATA, ABOUT, and PUBLICATIONS. An arrow points to the 'BROWSE REPORTS' item. Below the navigation bar is a header for 'Report Library' with the subtitle 'Averted School Violence / Reports'. The main content area features a report titled 'Parents help avert child's attack' with a truncated description: 'Police arrest a male student after being alerted by his parents and finding evidence of an impending attack...'. A yellow button labeled 'READ FULL REPORT' is positioned below the report title. On the right side, there is a search bar labeled 'Search Here...' and a 'Categories' section with a list of school levels: Elementary School (2), Middle School (8), and High School (33).

# What Have We Learned So Far?

**Part 1 Analysis:** Averted attacks (n=51)



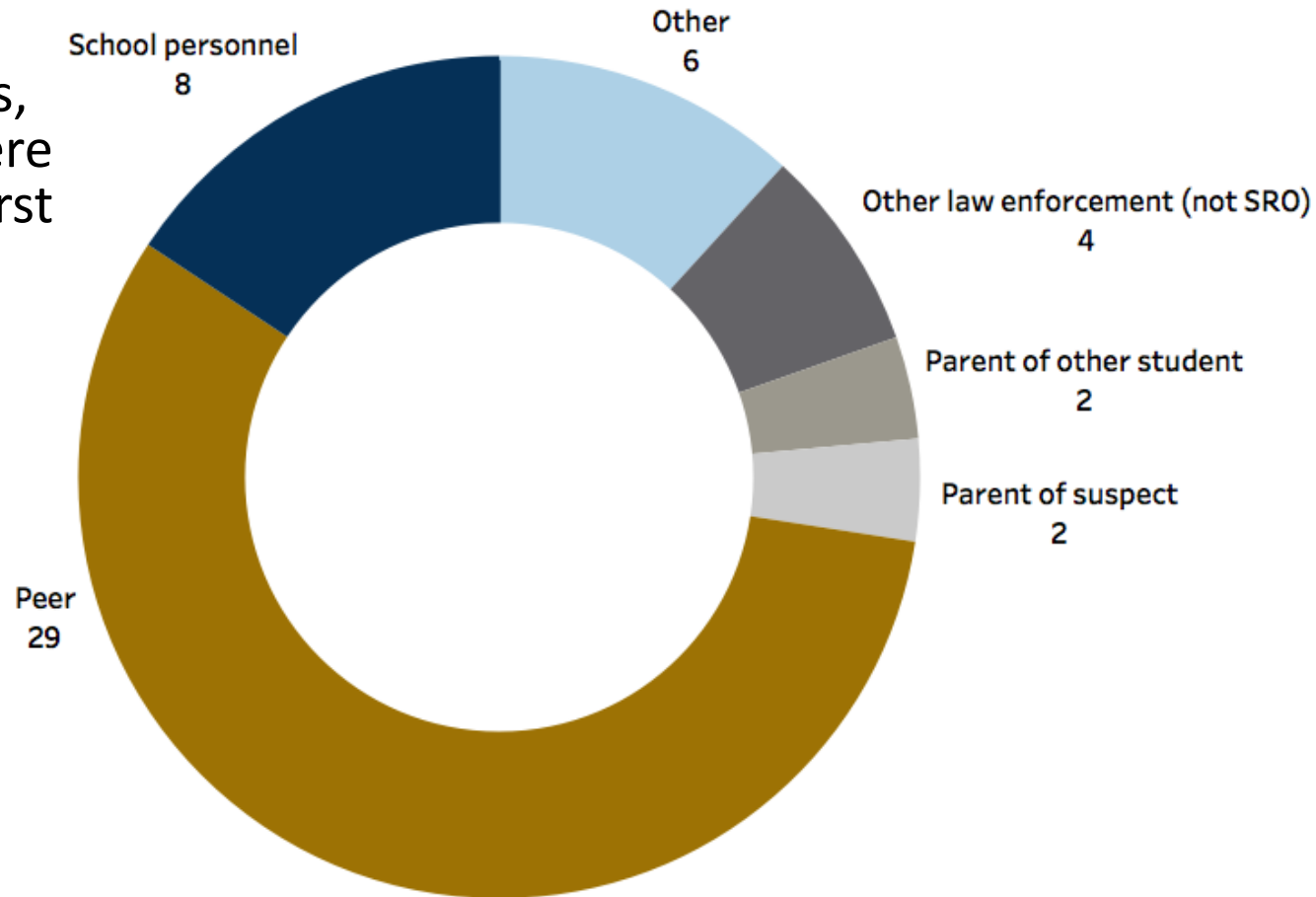
**Part 2 Analysis:**  
Comparison of completed attacks (n=51) to averted attacks (n=51)

# What Information Did We Study?

- **School information**
  - Safety/security
  - Size of student body/geography, etc.
- **Perpetrator information**
  - Behavioral/personal history
  - Reason for attack, etc.
- **Plot discovery and prevention**
  - The perpetrator's plan
  - How the attack was prevented, etc.

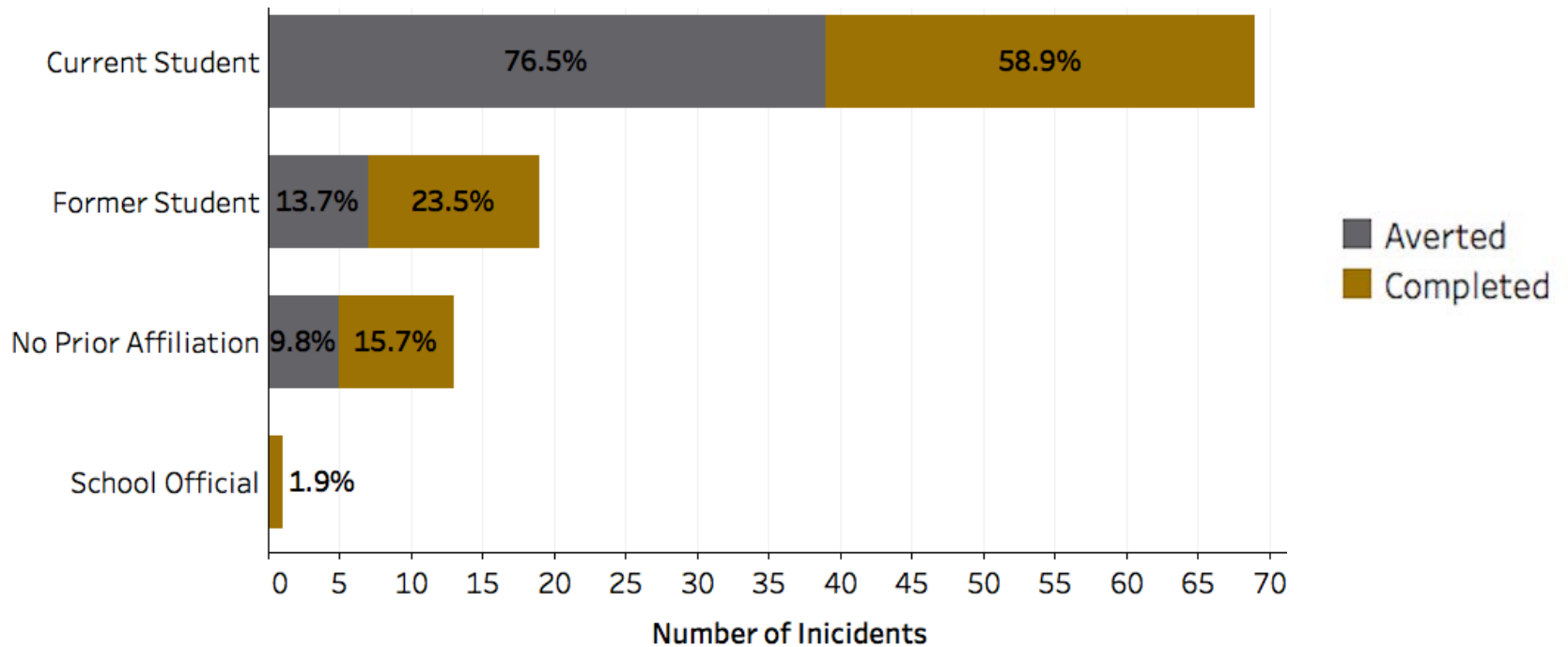
# Plot Discovery

- In averted attacks, student peers were most often the first to discover the plotter's plan for violence



# Perpetrator Information

## *Relationship to School*



# Perpetrator Information

## *Characteristics*

### **Completed Attack Sample**

- At least 19 perpetrators were known to the criminal justice system prior to their attacks



### **Averted Attack Sample**

- At least 9 perpetrators were known to the criminal justice system prior to their attacks

# Key Takeaways Identified From Analyses

## *Schools and Law Enforcement*

Educate students and teachers about warning signs for violence, as well as suicide or depression.

- Develop well-trained threat assessment teams.
  - Over 80% of averted and completed attacks were planned/executed by current or former students/school employees.

Proactively seek to identify student safety concerns.

# Key Takeaways Identified From Analyses

## *Law Enforcement*

Consider making door-breaching equipment more readily available to patrol officers to facilitate entries when necessary.

Consider training officers in initiating hostage release communications, as some school attacks end up in hostage situations and negotiators are not always immediately available.

Obtain access to school floor plans and become personally familiar with the buildings by doing walk-throughs regularly.

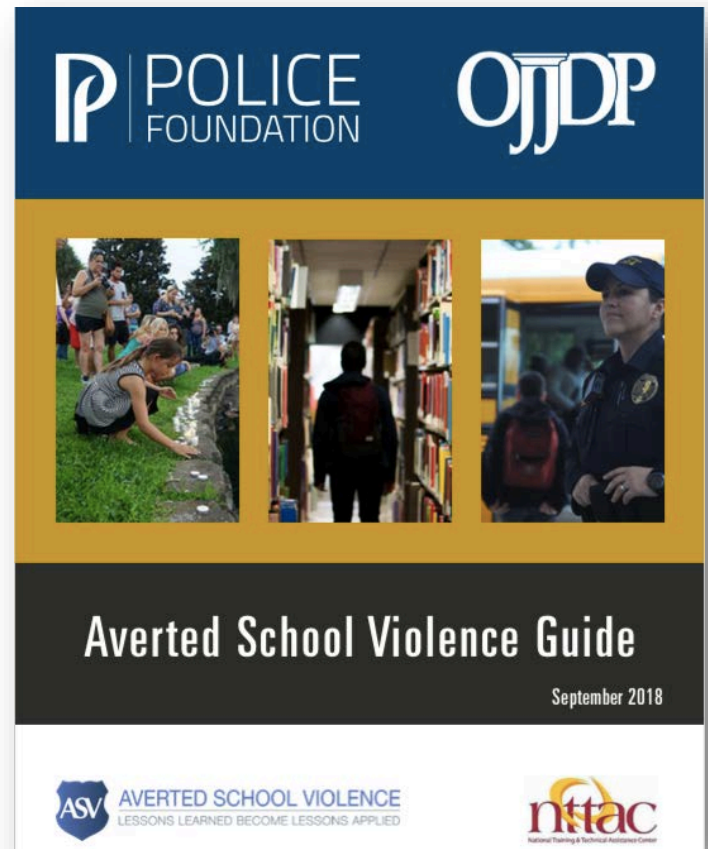


# Forthcoming Materials

If you would like to receive any of the following forthcoming ASV publications

- ASV User Guide
- Full report on averted attacks
- Full report comparing averted to completed attacks

Email:  
[kjohnson@policefoundation.org](mailto:kjohnson@policefoundation.org)



# Agenda

## Defining and Managing School Violence

- Understanding the Role of School Resource Officers (SROs)

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- Questions and Answers

# Overview

## The COPS Office

- The COPS Office
- COPS STOP School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)
- COPS Funding Opportunities
- Apply for Federal Funding
- School Safety Resources

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/>

# The COPS Office

COPS Office is the Department of Justice component responsible for advancing community policing with **state, local, and tribal law enforcement** agencies through **grant funding, technical assistance and resources**.

Since 1994, the COPS Office has invested more than **\$14 billion** to help advance community policing and over **7,000 SROs** across the country.

## COPS Grant Funding

- **COPS Hiring Program (CHP)** funds up to 100% of officer salary and benefits for state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to reduce crime and advance public safety through community policing.
- **Community Policing Development (CPD) Program** funds projects that develop knowledge, effective community policing strategies, and institutionalize community policing practice in routine business.
- **School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)** based on School Safety Act of 2018.

# The COPS Office – SVPP

## School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>

The SVPP awards are funded through the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018” aka “STOP School Violence Act of 2018

**SVPP** funds school safety measures, including: law enforcement training to prevent student violence; metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency; and other measures that the COPS Office determines may provide a significant improvement in security. Up to \$25 Million in funding.

**BJA** has companion STOP Act funding threat assessment technology; and crisis intervention teams; and training to prevent violence respond to related mental health crises.

# The COPS Office – SVPP

## 2018 SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Awards - Geographic Distribution by Jurisdiction Type



Rural (36 awards)



Suburban (30 awards)



Urban (22 awards)



States (3 Awards)

(Total – 91 Awards)

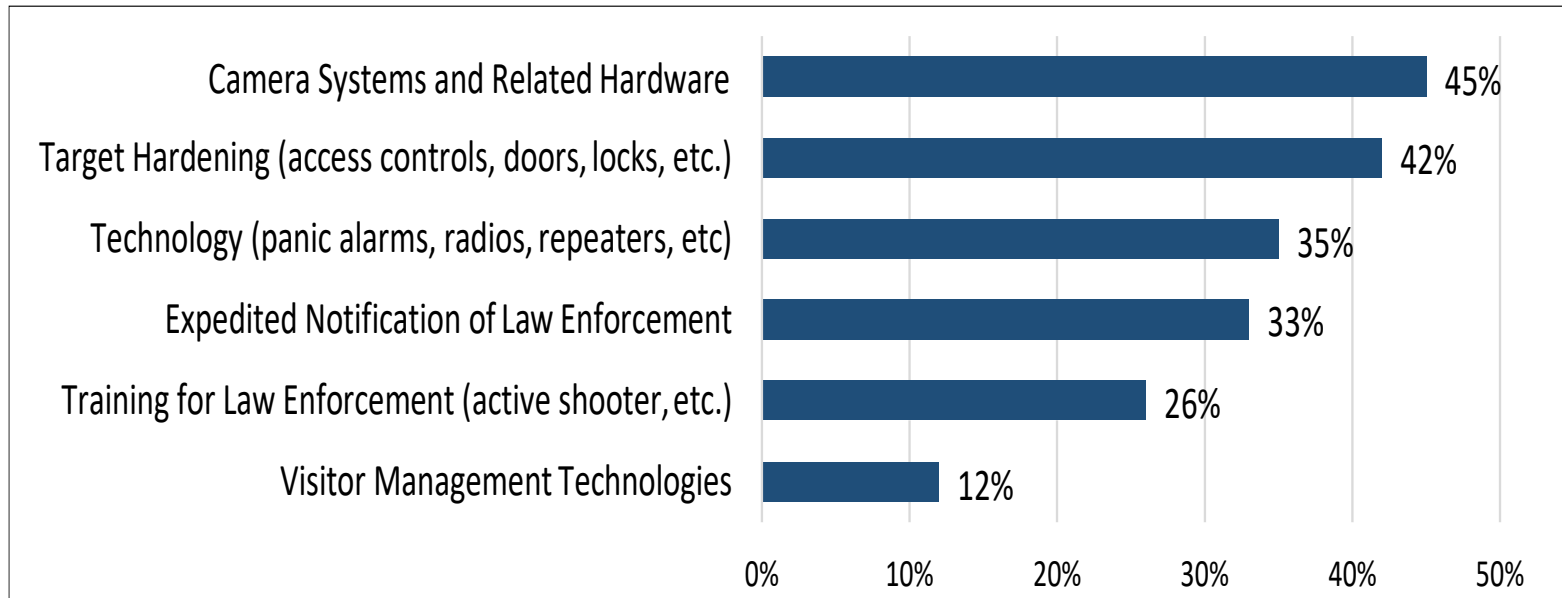


# The COPS Office – SVPP

## 2018 SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Most Common Elements of Awarded Projects

**Most Common Elements of Awarded Projects** (shown as percentage that included the element)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>The sum of all percentages exceeds 100 due to the fact that applicants often included multiple elements in their project

# COPS Funding Opportunities

The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) Program is a competitive solicitation open to all state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies with primary law enforcement authority. The COPS Office will soon be opening applications for both the 2018 and 2019 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) with available funding of approximately \$300 million.

CHP Awards fund 75% of salary and benefits for officers over a three year period and agencies can apply to fill multiple positions. Agencies can apply every funding year.

CHP grants may be used to:

- (1) hire new officers (including existing vacancies that are no longer funded in an agency's budget);
- (2) rehire officers already laid off by any jurisdiction as a result of budget reductions unrelated to the receipt of grant funding;
- (3) rehire officers scheduled to be laid off by the grantee's jurisdiction on a specific future date as a result of budget reductions unrelated to the receipt of grant funding.

100% of funding is available to agencies with emergencies such as natural disasters.



# COPS Funding Opportunities

CHP funding can be used to fund School Resource Officer (SRO) positions at one or more schools within a district and/or the agency jurisdiction.

All CHP funded SROs are required to attend the NASRO Basic Training and funds for the course registration and travel are provided through an award partnership with NASRO. COPS also encourages the school POC to attend NASRO training with the SRO.

Any SRO funding requires agencies to develop a Memorandum of Understanding in collaboration with school districts.

## **Memorandum of Understanding:**

- Clearly document the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the individuals and partners involved.
- Partners include SROs, school officials, law enforcement, education departments, students, and parents.
- A successful MOU documents the program's purpose, partner roles and responsibilities, requirements for information sharing, and supervision of the SRO.
- The MOU must clearly indicate that SROs will not be responsible for requests to resolve routine discipline problems involving students.

# COPS Funding Opportunities

## Community Policing Development (CPD) Microgrants Program

Field-Initiated Law Enforcement Microgrants awards provide funding for law enforcement agencies to conduct demonstration or pilot projects. Projects are designed to innovatively advance the field with a cost-effective approach, and a demonstrated understanding of the principles of community policing.

Agencies can partner with public governmental agencies, profit and nonprofit institutions, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations. The knowledge and innovation of communities is at the core of microgrant awards.

Project successes, challenges, and outcomes, as well as identified best practices, are summarized in annual publications and promoted via the COPS office for implementation by other agencies and communities.

Funding awards are typically between \$75,000-\$150,000 and can be used for agency civilian personnel and officer overtime, as well as funding for award partners that can include personnel salary and benefits, travel and training, supplies and technology.

# Apply for Federal Funding

## Preparing to Apply for COPS Funding

In order to apply for COPS Office funding, please prepare by taking the following actions:

STEP 1: Obtain a valid ORI number, call the COPS Office Response Center (1-800-421-6770) for assistance;

STEP 2: Get a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number by calling 866-705-5711 or visiting <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>

STEP 3: Ensure active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) database at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>:

- registration must be updated or renewed annually to maintain an active status
- a notarized letter appointing the authorized Entity Administrator is required for registration

STEP 4: Register at <https://www.grants.gov/> and complete form SF-424

STEP 5: Sign-up for notifications on COPS Office funding opportunities and activities at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/subscribe>

# The COPS Office – Resources and Training

Technical Assistance - The **CRI-TAC** program provides critical and tailored technical assistance resources to state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies on a wide variety of topics. (<https://cops.usdoj.gov/collaborativereform>)

Training Opportunities – The **COPS Office Training Portal** provides a convenient way for law enforcement professionals and community partners to access interactive online training in emerging public safety topics and serves as a gateway to a variety of multimedia community policing resources at no cost.

<https://copstrainingportal.org/>

**Supporting Safe Schools** Website of resources, links and media related to SROs and school safety (<https://cops.usdoj.gov/supportingsafeschools>)

**Resources Center** – COPS publications related to law enforcement issues, including school safety. (<https://ric-zai-inc.com/>)

- *Beyond the Badge: Profile of a School Resource Officer - A guide for school communities*

# Contact Information

**Website:** [cops.usdoj.gov](https://cops.usdoj.gov)

[askCopsRC@usdoj.gov](mailto:askCopsRC@usdoj.gov)

**Response Center:** 1-800-421-6770

**The Beat Podcast**

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/thebeat>

**Community Policing Dispatch e-newsletter:**

[cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/index.html](https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/index.html)

**What's New in Blue video series**

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/whatsnewinblue>

**CRI-TAC:** [www.CollaborativeReform.org](http://www.CollaborativeReform.org)

**Training Portal:** [www.copstrainingportal.org](http://www.copstrainingportal.org)

**Blue Alert Network:** [cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert](https://cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert)

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# Questions & Answers

## During the Webinar

Please use the Q&A Pod on your computer screen to submit questions.



## After the Webinar

Please join us on the Community of Practice for a 30-minute Web chat during which we will answer additional questions.

# Join us for a Web Chat on the Community of Practice NOW!

[watch this topic for replies](#) [move thread to forum:](#) [merge with another topic](#)

HOME ► [#ROLEOFSROS IN #SCHOOLSAFETY WEB CHAT](#)

Join us for a Web chat on August 29 at 3 PM ET as a follow up to our Webinar on the role of SROs in school safety.

## Welcome to the Web Chat!



**administrator**

Administrator

Posts: 253

11 days ago

may have more questions related to items discussed in today's Webinar. We hope to answer them in this forum!

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Thanks again for joining this Web chat! We're here to answer your questions

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