

KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM



What is an SRO?

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a police officer or sheriff's deputy assigned to work in a school.

For several years, KSD has employed 4 SROs each school year:

- Kent Police Department (2)
- Covington Police Department (1)
- King County Sheriff (1)

Learn more at:

www.kent.k12.wa.us/SRO



LEGAL DEFINITION

"A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a commissioned law enforcement officer in the state of Washington with sworn authority to make arrests, deployed in community-oriented policing, and assigned by the employing police department or sheriff's office to work in schools to address crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around K-12 schools. School resource officers should focus on keeping students out of the criminal justice system when possible and should not be used to attempt to impose criminal sanctions in matters that are more appropriately handled within the educational system."

WHAT DO KSD SROS DO?

Primary Duties

- Emergency response to all KSD schools
- Contacting of non-students, adults, and criminal situations on and near school campuses
- Assisting students who are potential victims of crimes
- Safe Schools Emergency Preparedness planning and training for schools
- Assisting in emergency drills and lockdowns for state compliance
- Participation in Threat Assessment teams
- Welfare checks
- Building strong positive relationships with students

Secondary Duties

- Participate in career days and family nights
- Graduation planning and coverage, monitoring events, dances, and football games at French Field
- Police Explore Programs for youth 14-21
- Participate in restorative justice circles

Community Input on KSD School Safety & Security Staff Program



Second Substitute House Bill 1216 (2019–20) Session Law created requirements and definitions around an optional School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The Program was codified into state law as RCW 28A.320.124.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1214 (2021–22) Session Law expanded and clarified the previous legislation to include all school safety and security staff personnel. Thus, the name of the SRO program has been expanded to the School Safety and Security Staff Program.

The legislature notes that schools should be a place in which all youth feel safe. With racial equity as a central component of safety and security planning, it is imperative that all school safety and security staff not contribute to an unsafe environment for Black youth and youth of color.

Learn more at:

www.kent.k12.wa.us/SRO

2021-22 LISTENING SESSIONS

KSD listening sessions bring together a group of people to discuss a specific issue. KSD will hold six safety-specific listening sessions to get feedback on our SRO program in the 2021-22 school year, in addition to survey and thoughtexchange opportunities. These sessions are an opportunity for KSD students, families, and/or community members to share their thoughts and ideas.

KSD Student Listening Sessions, October 11-22

- Kentlake HS Strand, Date and Time TBA
- Kentridge HS Strand, Date and Time TBA
- Kent-Meridian HS Strand, Date and Time TBA
- Kentwood HS Strand, Date and Time TBA

KSD Family and Community Listening Sessions

- KSD Listening Session, April 19, 5:30-7:30 PM
- KSD Listening Session, April 21, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Listening Sessions will be virtual, links and additional details will be available at www.kent.k12.wa.us/SRO.

KSD SRO TRAINING

With the passing of RCW 28A.320.124 (2019-20), the legislature stated its intent to create statewide school resource officers (SRO) program.

While it is not the intent of the legislature to require school resource officers in schools, SRO programs must ensure district policies are in place and that there are clear agreements between school districts and the local law enforcement agencies which provide SROs.

In addition, such a program must ensure consistency through minimum training requirements for SROs. These requirements are in place to establish effective partnerships which protect the health and safety of all students.

It is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies to see that their SROs have the appropriate training. It is the responsibility of school districts to verify that this training has taken place before engaging an officer as an SRO.