

	Operational General Order	9.02 School Resource Officers	PAGE 1 OF 2
	SUBJECT		EFFECTIVE DATE
	<b>Virginia Beach Police Department General Order</b> <b>Chapter 9 - Juvenile Operations</b>		<b>03/31/2014</b>
			ORIGINATOR/REVIEW
DISTRIBUTION		CALEA: 44.2.4	Uniform Division
ALL			
BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:			<i>James A. Coonan</i>

## Purpose

The School Resource Officer (SRO) will facilitate the development of positive relationships by instilling an atmosphere of approachability, mutual respect, and trust within the school to which the officer is assigned. This is done to create safe, secure schools while developing and maintaining a successful working relationship between police, school administrators, staff, parents, and students.

## Policy (CALEA 44.2.4)

The School Resource Officer Program will establish a highly visible police presence in the Virginia Beach School System by assigning a specially selected and trained uniformed police officer to each middle and high school campus.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) will be assigned to the precinct in which their assigned school is located and be assigned to a supervisor. The School Resource Officer's supervisor will determine scheduling, training related to the duties of the position, and assignments.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) will perform in an enforcement and investigative capacity and when legally possible will seek the cooperation of school administrators to the benefit of all within the school and community. The SRO will function as an advisor, mentor, and positive role model to students as well as to provide an additional educational resource to the school. In addition to the primary or middle school assignment, each SRO will be expected to liaison with elementary school staff, when called upon, and take appropriate law enforcement action when deemed necessary.

## Objectives

School Resource Officers will perform law enforcement, teaching, and counseling duties to:

1. Prevent and reduce the occurrence of criminal activities and juvenile delinquency on school property by establishing a highly visible police presence.
2. Represent a deterrent to those who would regard school property as a potential setting for illegal activities.
3. Pursue improved cooperation among the schools, communities, students, parents, other agencies, and the police.
4. Provide individual counseling and mentoring to students when appropriate.

5. Identify students by direct contact or information from school personnel who need or may need the services of other city agencies, i.e., Social Services, Comprehensive Mental Health, Housing, or Public Health.
6. Assist in providing the safest possible educational environment for students and staff.
7. Specific activities of School Resource Officers include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Facilitating a beneficial information exchange between uniform patrol and detectives.
  - b. Provide ethical guidance in a classroom setting by teaching appropriate anti-drug/anti-violence educational programs, approved by the Chief of Police and the Virginia Beach Public School Curriculum and Instruction, such as, “Virginia Rules” and “Every 15 Minutes.”
  - c. Explain the role of law enforcement in society by participating in lectures, displays, and special events.
  - d. Attend extra-curricular school activities such as s Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings, sporting events, school dances, or any school related function where the SRO deems a need for law enforcement presence.
  - e. Participating in the school Crime Solvers Program if one exists.
  - f. Conducting school safety audits and making recommendations regarding school safety issues.
  - g. Maintaining and updating, as necessary, the school’s safety plan so as not to conflict with recommendations from the Virginia Beach Fire Department or any other enforcing agency.
8. Provide the following reports:
  - a. Administrative school profiles
  - b. Critical incident profiles
9. The School Resource Officer will act in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding established between the Virginia Beach Public School System and the Virginia Beach Police Department; officers will not be used by school administration in lieu of school security.

Specific operational components of this policy will require the School Resource Officer to determine if a specific incident falls under his/her purview and to act in an enforcement capacity using the following criteria:

- a. The nature of the event requires the officer to enforce the law.
- b. The school administrators request assistance when prosecution is an option.

### **Student Safety Patrol**

At the beginning of each school year, School Resource Officers will provide lectures to the elementary schools within their precincts in support of the student safety patrol program.