

Key Features of the Ohio Sample SRO MOU Supporting Positive School Climate & Student Success

The Sample MOU notes that the MOU *clarifies roles and expectations and formalizes relationships between the participating entities to foster an efficient and cohesive program that will build a positive relationship between police officers, school staff, and the students, promote a safe and positive learning environment and decrease the number of youth formally referred to the juvenile justice system*

The mission of the SRO Program is *to promote school safety by building a positive school climate in which everyone feels safe and students are supported to succeed*

Key features of the Sample MOU include:

1. A clearly defined set of goals for the SRO program.
2. Background requirements or suggested expertise for employing law enforcement in a school setting, including an understanding of child and adolescent development.
3. Professional development, including training requirements that focus on age-appropriate practices for conflict resolution and developmentally

informed de-escalation and crisis intervention methods, in addition to other child and youth development related topics.

4. Clearly defined roles, responsibilities and expectations of the partners involved, including SROs, law enforcement, school administrators, staff and teachers. Specifically, an understanding that routine discipline matters and truancy is the responsibility of the school administrators. The MOU establishes a protocol for how suspected criminal activity versus school discipline is handled so that SROs, administrators, teachers, parents and students have a clear understanding of the disciplinary process.
5. The need for coordinated crisis planning and updating of school crisis plans.
6. Creating partnerships with behavioral health and other care providers in the community for student and family support.

The Ohio Sample MOU is designed to serve as a starting point for local school districts to use in developing their own MOU in partnership with their local law enforcement partner and school community.