

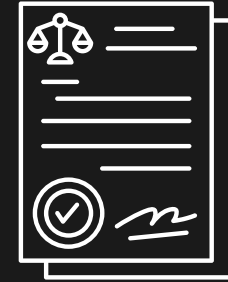
A grayscale background image showing a hand holding a walkie-talkie. The hand is positioned in the center, with the walkie-talkie held between the fingers. The background is dark and textured, with some circular patterns visible in the corners.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM

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OKLAHOMA HOUSE BILL 2903

ENACTED JULY 2023



CREATED THE PILOT PROGRAM  
KNOWN AS THE SCHOOL RESOURCE  
OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM

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# HOUSE BILL 2903

The Oklahoma State Department of Education shall establish and maintain a three-year pilot program known as the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

Each school district in the State of Oklahoma will receive approximately \$96,000.00 per year for the next three years

The \$150 million used to fully fund the SRO Program were from unused funding from a prior fiscal year. The SRO Program is fully funded for three years

The SRO Program is funded by House Bill 2904

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# HOUSE BILL 2903 REQUIREMENTS

MUST HIRE A  
NEW SRO(S)

- Cannot use funds to pay for an existing SRO
- Not a retired LE Officer working an extra job or an armed security guard

COMPLETE  
CLEET COURSE

- The SRO shall successfully complete the CLEET course, **Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response Training**

CREATE  
MOU/AGREEMENT

- In order to receive the money, your City needs have an MOU/Agreement between your law enforcement agency and the school district
- Spell out expectations and obligations
- Include your municipal attorney in the process



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# QUALIFICATIONS FOR SRO

- SRO definition: “A law enforcement officer with sworn authority and training in school-based law enforcement and crisis response who is assigned by an employing law enforcement agency to work collaboratively with one or more schools using community-orientated policing concepts.”
- ONLY TWO TYPES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN OKLAHOMA
  - 1) FULL TIME PEACE OFFICER
    - A person who is **paid by a law enforcement agency to regularly work more than 25 hours per week** enforcing local and state laws and ordinance.
  - 2) RESERVE PEACE OFFICER
    - Can be paid or unpaid
    - Can only perform LE duties no more that 140 hrs. per month

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# LIMITATIONS ON HOW MONEY IS SPENT

Monies can only be spent on the following:

- Establishing and maintaining a SRO program
- Providing physical security enhancements for school including, but not limited to SROs, cameras, gates, lighting, locks, doors, windows, security geofencing, and ballistic storm shelters.
- For additional guidance of approved purchases, contact the Office of School Safety and Security; [okcares@sde.ok.gov](mailto:okcares@sde.ok.gov).

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# SRO HIRING ISSUES

School districts have proposed to hire the SRO and request that the Police Chief issue a law enforcement commission

- NOT RECOMMENDED
- YOUR COMMISSION = YOUR EMPLOYEE
- As an employee of the municipality, the municipality is legally liable for the actions of their employee within the scope of their employment
- The municipality wants to have authority over their employee; to supervise, train, discipline. Etc..
- The Police Chief makes the decision of who will work as the SRO
- SRO is at the school to enforce state and local law, not the school's policies and procedures. Outline expectations in the MOU
- School Districts can create their own police department; thus, they can hire employ and peace officer directly and issue a law enforcement commission.





# FAQ: WITH MONEY FROM THE SRO PROGRAM:

Q: CAN A SCHOOL HIRE STAFF

A: NO. ONLY AN SRO

Q: CAN THE SCHOOL HIRE A SECURITY GUARD WHO IS A RETIRED LE

A: NO. SRO MUST BE EMPLOYED BY A LE AGENCY

Q: CAN FUNDS BE USED TO BUILD A SAFE ROOM

A: YES, A BALLISTIC STORM SHELTER IS AN APPROVED EXPENSE

Q: CAN A SCHOOL SPEND THE 3 YEAR ALLOCATION IN YEAR 1

A: NO. BUT YOU CAN ROLLOVER UNSPENT MONEY TO THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

ALL MONIES MUST BE ENCUMBERED BY END OF YEAR 3

Q: CAN MONIES BE SPENT TO PURCHASE WEAPONS/AMMO/TASER/  
K9/POLICE VEHICLE

A: NO. BUT SCHOOL CAN PURCHASE BWCs and ATV to patrol the campus property

Q: CAN MONIES BE SPENT ON DRONES FOR SAFETY AT BIG EVENTS

A: YES, MUST HAVE FAA CERTIFIED PILOT



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