

Saint Paul Police Department Youth Services Section-School Resource Officer



The Saint Paul Police Department, in partnership with the Saint Paul Public School District, is dedicated to promoting safety, education, training, and leadership skills. It is our mission to help young people improve their lives by building self-esteem, and developing good values and skills during critical years of growth.

The School Resource Officer (SRO's) first duty is that of a sworn law enforcement officer, while simultaneously striving to promote a positive interaction with students, parents, faculty and administrators. The SRO takes a proactive approach with students to identify those at risk, and if necessary, intervene with appropriate action to build healthy and trusting relationships.

The SRO is a positive role model for many students who are not exposed to such role models in today's society. The SRO's presence in the school sends a strong message that violence and certain behaviors are not acceptable.

Multiple Roles of the School Resource Officer:

Educator



SROs provide programs on law and safety-related topics. The emphasis of their presentations is on educating the students about safety, the law and their roles in society.

Counselor

SROs counsel students on a variety of issues including mediation of anger conflicts, drug and alcohol concerns, physical abuse and other matters connected with the law. SROs interact closely with parents, teachers, and administrators to provide appropriate levels of information and student support.

Law Enforcement Officer



The School Resource Officers work closely with the school administrators, parents, and court system to hold offenders accountable and resolving issues with alternatives to juvenile detention when appropriate.

Coach



SROs have volunteered their time to assist in coaching different teams within the school district. Besides being active in the school during the day, they build a different type of relationship with the students when they coach or assist at school events in the evening or on the weekends.



Mentor

SROs volunteer their time mentoring youth. They get together with their mentees and have a great time. It doesn't require a special occasion just a few hours every month sharing simple things with a young person. Things like....

- Shooting hoops
- Playing a board game
- Sharing a pizza
- Arts and crafts
- Or just hanging out and talking



It's not about being a mentor ... it's about being a friend.

Some of the programs the SROs present are from the following Web sites:

- ✚ **Internet Safety:** Communication is an effective tool for parents and guardians when helping their children avoid the dangers that exist on the Internet. NetSmartz provides on- and offline learning activities for parents to facilitate discussions with their children and teens about Internet safety. Visit: <http://www.netsmartz.org>
- ✚ **Bullying:** You can learn all about bullying and what you can do to stop it. Take a look around and you'll find games and cartoon Webisodes that help you take a Stand. Visit: <http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov>
- ✚ **Drugs and alcohol:** This site has education resources, facts and materials on drugs of abuse, marijuana, ecstasy, smoking, steroids, chat day, and more. Visit: <http://www.nida.nih.gov>

Direct link to Saint Paul Public School web site: spps.org