

Town Of Dennis Police Department Policy and Procedure		<i>Number:</i> 5-2
		<i>Classification:</i> Support Services
<i>Subject:</i> School Resource Officer	<i>Reference:</i>	
	<i>Expiration:</i>	
<i>By Authority of:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Rescinds:</i>
CALEA/ Mass 44.2.4 Standards:		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines to Department and DY Regional School staff regarding the School Resource Officer role and responsibilities.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Dennis Police Department to maintain a School Resource Officer (SRO) program to provide a law enforcement presence at the Wixon Middle School and Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School. The SRO serves as a liaison between the faculty and students of the schools and the Dennis Police Department. This program's intent is to reduce juvenile delinquency and promote positive behavior by providing a resource with respect to delinquency prevention, counseling and/or mentoring, a positive police role model to students and an orderly learning atmosphere through an enforcement presence.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Duties and Responsibilities of the School Resource Officer

1. Communication between the Department and the schools is essential to the success of the SRO Program. The SRO shall keep school officials informed of police related matters and other issues impacting the schools and attend school staff meetings when appropriate. Likewise, the SRO will keep his supervisor apprised of school issues that have a law enforcement interest.
2. The SRO's primary duty is law enforcement, including identifying and eliminating crime, acting as a resource for delinquency prevention, investigating crimes and criminal behavior, providing security at school

events, on- site emergency response to safety threats or disasters and enforcing applicable state and local laws.

3. **The SRO will operate in cooperation with the school staff but shall not interfere in school matters. Discipline for infractions of school rules and policies should be handled by school authorities. The SRO shall be available for assistance and consultation regarding these matters, however, school officials will continue to assume full responsibility for enforcement of school rules and regulations. These matters should be referred rather than handled by the SRO**
4. **School Field Trips – The SRO may accompany school groups on field trips. The SRO will notify the supervisor prior to taking part in trips outside of the Town of Dennis. Officers are reminded that they do not normally have police powers outside of the Town of Dennis. Officers attending such trips out of town are acting more as a chaperone or liaison with local law enforcement.**
5. **The SRO is encouraged to participate in after- school social and sports activities with supervisory approval and when staffing and budgetary resources allow. The SRO may also adjust his/her hours of work when appropriate.**
6. **Within the role of educator the SRO may:**
 - a. **Develop safety and crime prevention programs and curricula;**
 - b. **Provide guidance on ethical issues in a classroom setting;**
 - c. **Establish partnerships with other school programs such as DARE;**
 - d. **Coordinate with school staff and seek opportunities to promote educational programs that will expand the students' knowledge of the law and law enforcement's role in society.**
7. **Within the role of advisor the SRO may:**
 - a. **Counsel or mentor a student and make referrals to community programs, social service agencies and in- school programs;**
 - b. **Act as a liaison to parents and parent groups, school staff and community leaders;**
 - c. **Communicate openly with students regarding rights, responsibilities, concerns and unacceptable behavior.**
8. **The SRO is prohibited from entering into any type of physical or romantic relationship with a student irregardless of the student's age. In addition, the SRO will not arrange or schedule a private off- campus meeting with a student unless approved by the SRO's supervisor.**

- c. Ensure that the student's parent or guardian is notified where the student is 16 years of age or younger or a CHINS order is in effect.
8. The SRO may assist Department personnel in the investigation of crimes that occur off school grounds where the crime involves juveniles.

C. Uniform and Appearance

If the SRO is in uniform, the SRO will wear the complete uniform of the day for Patrol personnel. If the SRO is working in civilian clothes then he/she will follow Department guidelines concerning civilian attire for Detective Unit personnel.

D. Selection and Training

1. The Department may consult with school staff in determining selection criteria and the selection process for the SRO.
2. While the SRO position is assigned and serves at the discretion of the Chief, the Department will make every effort to ensure that the SRO is assigned to the position for a minimum of 3 years. Criteria affecting the assignment includes, but is not limited to, promotional opportunities, department staffing issues or assignment suitability.
3. The SRO will attend all required Department training. In addition, the SRO, his/her supervisor and the Training Coordinator will seek out specialized training to promote and develop the SRO position.

E. Transportation of Students

1. School Resource Officers shall not transport students in their official vehicles unless:
 - a. The student is under arrest;
 - b. The student is a victim of a crime;
 - c. The student is truant and being returned to school;
 - d. An actual emergency exists; or
 - e. In accordance with existing agency policies and approval of a supervisor.
2. The SRO will be provided a department vehicle to be used for official business when available.