

School Security Programs

Another very common form of school security staffing is the in-house school security officer and/or district security coordinator or director. The titles of the individuals at the school level tend to vary a great deal from those such as school police officer, school security officer, school safety officer, campus supervisors, security aides, etc. Regardless of their title, many are typically responsible for campus supervision, enforcement of school rules, and related safety tasks.

"School Police Officer" means an officer employed by a school district who has been granted powers under 24 PS 7-778 (c) (2) or (3), or any combination thereof. A number of school districts have their own school police departments. These officers are typically full-time, in-house school officers with police powers who are employed directly by the school district rather than directly by a law enforcement agency outside of the school district.

"School Resource Officer" (SRO) means a law enforcement officer commissioned by a law enforcement agency whose duty station is in a school. SROs are law enforcement officers from local, county or state law enforcement agencies assigned to schools in cooperative agreements with education officials.

"School Security Officer" means a noncommissioned officer employed by a school district or a vendor who is assigned to a school for routine safety and security duties and who has not been granted powers under 24 PS 7-778 (c) (2) or (3). In-house school security personnel, although sometimes commissioned with limited arrest authority depending upon jurisdiction, qualifications, and other issues, typically are civilian, non-police classified school support personnel without full police powers. In many school systems, these officials are the backbone of school operations with respect to providing school safety support services, enhanced campus supervision, assistance with disruptive students, monitoring visitors, coordination with law enforcement officials, and a host of other functions geared toward improving and maintaining school safety.