

Addressing the Gap: Measurement Strategies to Understand the Impact of School Resource Officers in Alaska

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INTRODUCTION

- To increase school safety, schools adopted School Resource Officers (SROs)
- SROs are law enforcement officers (James & McCallion, 2013)

Purpose

- 1) Identify where, with whom, and how SROs operate in Alaskan public schools
- 2) Compare the training methods and responsibilities of SROs in Alaskan public schools to current best practice recommendations

METHODS

- Archival Review
 - National Center of Education Statistics (NCES)
 - National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)
 - JUSTIA
- Interviews
 - Anchorage School District (ASD) administrators
 - Anchorage School District SROs

RESULTS

- Do we measure where SROs are located in ASD?
 - We know where and how SROs are in urban areas are assigned to schools
- Do we measure with whom SROs work in ASD?
 - We know SROs work with students of varying ages, race/ethnicity, economic and disability statuses
- Do we measure how SROs are trained in ASD?
 - We know training duration and SROs meet most training areas
 - We don’t evaluate translation of training into practice
 - We don’t know if training occurs in an educational environment
- Do we measure what SROs do in ASD?
 - We can track the operation of SROs as law enforcers
 - We don’t track roles through the same systems
 - We don’t know the protocols for responding to calls

NASRO Requirements	Yes	No
State police certification	✓	
40-hour training program	✓	
SRO law	✓	
Function of police officers	✓	
Development of teaching skills	✓	
Evaluation of SRO training and performance		✗

FIGURES

Law Enforcer Topics	Both	Academy	In-service
Law	✓		
Armed Response	✓		
Crime prevention (general)	✓		
Interviews and interrogations	✓		
Investigations	✓		
Crime prevention (school)			
Patrolling	✓		
Advocacy			✓
Mandatory reporting		✓	

Educator Topics	Both	Academy	In-service
Crime prevention (general)	✓		
Social media			
School safety			✓
Victimization	✓		
Laws pertaining to students			✓
Safe traffic stops	✓		
Driver safety		✓	
Decision making	✓		

Informal Counselor Topics	Both	Academy	In-service
Mentoring			✓
Crime prevention (general)	✓		
Empowering youth			✓
Resiliency and overall wellness	✓		
Adolescent brain development		✓	
Social/emotional development		✓	
Diversity			
Youth decision-making skills			✓
Trauma-informed practices	✓		

DISCUSSION

- Measuring where and with whom SROs work:
 - Police departments should have a separate page identifying schools where SROs work
- Measuring how SROs are trained:
 - Training should occur within school environments
 - Post-training and ongoing assessment to measure the effectiveness of NASRO training
- Measuring what SROs do:
 - Effectiveness of training is not monitored or measured for fidelity (execution of training)

