



WHY DO SCHOOLS HAVE A RESOURCE OFFICER?



The concept of having a School Resource Officer (SRO) has been around since the 1950s. The idea is to place a law enforcement officer in a school for three reasons.

First, the officer is there to provide a law enforcement presence. By being visible to prevent problems and to be available to handle police related functions, such as crime investigation, the officer provides a safe learning environment.

The second part of the SRO's job is to be a teacher. By working with classroom teachers and other faculty members, the SRO can present information and answer questions on a variety of topics, including the law, drugs, safety, crime prevention, violence prevention, and community awareness of these issues. The third part of the triangle is counseling. Police officers can offer advice, mediation and direction to students, parents and faculty in various matters. As part of this counseling, they can also offer direction to other resources in the community.

The Watervliet Police Department's School Resource Officer, Sgt. Mark Spain, has become a valuable part of the school staff and an important link between students, the police and the community. Sgt. Spain has built a bond between the young people of the school district and law enforcement that provides understanding from both sides. Students who feel safe become better learners and better citizens.

Sgt. Spain is a trained member of The National Association of School Resource Officers ([N.A.S.R.O.](#)).