

**The North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission**  
**The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission**

## **FAQs for School Resource Officers**

### **1. Who is a School Resource Officer?**

A School Resource Officer (SRO) is defined under 12 NCAC 10B .0510 and in 12NCAC 09B .0313 as follows:

A "School Resource Officer (SRO)" is defined as any law enforcement officer assigned to one or more public schools within a local school administrative unit, as defined in G.S. 115C-5(6), who works in a school at least 20 hours per week for more than 12 weeks per calendar year to assist with all of the following:

- (1) School safety;
- (2) School security;
- (3) Emergency preparedness;
- (4) Emergency response; and
- (5) Any additional responsibilities related to school safety or security assigned by the officer's employer while the officer is acting as a School Resource Officer.

Any written memorandum of understanding between the local school administrative unit and the law enforcement agency governing the School Resource Officer shall be consistent with this Paragraph.

### **2. What are the minimum requirements for a deputy sheriff or police officer to serve as a School Resource Officer?**

A deputy sheriff must hold **General Certification** with the Sheriffs' Standards Commission and a police officer must hold **General Certification** with the Criminal Justice Standards Commission. Additionally, he/she must complete the basic SRO Course on or before 12/31/2020; or within one year of being appointed as an SRO, whichever is later.

### **3. What basic SRO Training is acceptable per the Commissions' rules?**

The Basic School Resource Officer Training course authored by the North Carolina Justice Academy shall be used as the curriculum for this training course. SRO Training authored by any other entity is not acceptable.

### **4. Is the SRO required to attend this training at the NC Justice Academy?**

No. The training may be accomplished at any delivery site as long as the course curriculum is that authored by the NCJA and it is taught by a Commission certified instructor who has completed the SRO train-the-trainer instruction, as delivered by the NCJA.

**5. May an officer continue to work as an assigned SRO without completing the Basic SRO course?**

A deputy sheriff or police officer who was assigned as an SRO prior to 1/1/2020 may not continue to work in the capacity of an SRO after 12/31/2020 without having completed the Basic SRO course. An officer assigned as an SRO after 1/1/2020 has one year from the date of assignment to complete the training. Any SRO who does not complete the Basic SRO Training Course in that time period may not serve as an SRO until the deficiency has been satisfied.

**6. Are SROs required to complete any “refresher” training?**

Yes. School Resource Officers who completed the Basic SRO course in 2020 or earlier must complete a minimum of one (1) hour of refresher training each year beginning in 2021. SROs who complete the Basic SRO training after 2020 must complete refresher training the year following successful completion of that course and each year thereafter.

**7. How will the annual refresher training be accomplished?**

The NC Justice Academy will produce the annual refresher SRO training and it is planned to be offered in an on-line format.

**8. Can this refresher training be used to satisfy any portion of the annual In-Service Training Requirement?**

Yes, beginning in 2021, the SRO refresher training may be used as a topic of choice to satisfy one (1) credit of mandated in-service training.

**9. If an officer who previously held General Certification with the Commission is separated for a period exceeding one year, would they be eligible to serve as an SRO upon reappointment?**

No, because an officer who has exceeded a one year break in service would revert to a Probationary Certification status upon return to service; and SROs are required to hold General Certification.

**10. If an officer who holds General Certification successfully completed the Justice Academy’s SRO basic training course more than one year prior to being assigned as an SRO, is that basic SRO training still valid?**

No. According to the rule, only deputies or police officers who previously completed the training AND who have been continually assigned as an SRO are credited with the training. Therefore, if they did not work as an SRO within one year of completing the training, the training is no longer valid and they must complete a subsequent Basic SRO training course.

**11. Does the basic SRO training remain valid for an officer who previously completed SRO training, worked as an SRO for a period of time, remained certified as a deputy sheriff or police officer, but was re-assigned to another Division and did not work as an SRO for an extended period of time (more than one year)?**

As long as this officer completes the required refresher training each year, then his/her basic SRO training remains valid.