

S.R.O.

Vote YES on Article 3



Why a School Resource Officer?

Most of the negative influences that happen are from outside our community. Unfortunately most of our kids, after they graduate from high school, tend to gravitate outside of our community to go to college, work, or just live. Don't you think they deserve to be prepared when they do so? We have a great community. We have wonderful people who work very hard to help and mentor our kids.

The truth is that we have children in situations that no child should be in. As a community, we come together and help care for them. We know that there are those who are tempted to experiment with things that are destructive to them when they don't have all the facts about their dangers. We aren't trying to put law enforcement officials in schools to spy on our kids. We are looking to those who can mentor our kids, point them in the right direction, help them to make good choices.

Are we expecting the Bristol PD to take one of their officers, send them to DARE training, and expect them to execute this program in all 5 of our Elementary schools, spend time mentoring NMMS students, and be present at NRHS? If so, I think we are being unrealistic. It is my opinion, and the opinion of Stand Up Newfound that a School Resource Officer could make a positive influence on our kids. An SRO could ensure safety is first in our schools. Who knows, this officer might even convince some of our students to remain in our community. Perhaps become a local police officer themselves.

What is a School Resource Officer?

A School Resource Officer (SRO) can help to provide education programs and prevention activities that can advocate and enable our children and youth to understand and make positive life choices in sometimes very difficult situations. The SRO works with school administrators, educators and counselors based on the needs of the students.

Examples of key roles SRO's play in school districts:

- Promote an atmosphere of safety and order for students and faculty members.
- Foster and promote in students a positive attitude toward law enforcement and good citizenship, including accountability for their actions.

- Educate students in the prevention and consequences of substance misuse and criminal activity.
- Provide security to the school district from outside threats or safety concerns.
- Assist students in problem solving, mediation, personal safety and accurate information if criminal justice system is involved.

The SRO is involved in a variety of functions aimed at prevention. The SRO is a resource for students, parents, teachers and administration regarding law issues. The SRO is a link to other service agencies which provide preventive and counseling services within the school district.

The duties and responsibilities vary in individual districts. Typically the SRO works under the general supervision of the Chief of Police and the Superintendent of Schools, based on the needs and resources of the school district.

Please understand all the facts and vote YES on Article 3. Thank you for your consideration and interest in this important topic!

Bryan and Debbie Richardson,
Stand Up Newfound