

Establishing Relationships

A critical aspect to the success of the School Resource Officer is the establishment of relationships with school staff and specialists, parents, and especially students. It is important for the SRO to be aware of the services being provided by school specialists such as Guidance Counselors, School Nurses, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, Speech Pathologists, Physical Therapists, and Occupational Therapists. The SRO should establish collaborative working relationships with the specialists and with school staff. Parents are key players in the school community and should also be the focus of relationship building by the SRO. The SRO should attend PTA meetings, parent nights and conferences. It would also be useful for the SRO to create a brochure or fact sheet regarding the roles of the SRO; this could be distributed to parents, teachers, students and other community members. Without a doubt, the most important relationships for the SRO to cultivate are relationships with the students. Getting youth actively involved in the School Resource Officer program can help the SRO to build rapport with students; reduce stereotypes of police officers; provide opportunities for youth be involved in the improvement of their school; and promote crime and delinquency prevention.