

Defending Against School Related Offenses

SROs, Offenses, and Major Cases

What are School Resource Officers (“SROs”)?

- Law enforcement officer – 50% of the time
- Law-related counselor – 30% of the time
- Law-related education teacher – 20% of the time

Source: “What SROs Do In Schools,” North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website

What are School Resource Officers (“SROs”)?

- 60% always wear their law enforcement uniforms
- 97% carry guns

Source: “What SROs Do In Schools,” North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website

Where Are SROs Located?

- 773 current SROs statewide, from 243 in 1996
- 113 of 115 local education agencies (“LEAs”) have at least one SRO
- 99 counties have an SRO presence in at least one school

Source: “Annual SRO Census, 2005-06,” North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website

Where Are SROs Located?

- 88% of all high schools have an SRO exclusively assigned
- 72% of all middle schools have an SRO exclusively assigned

Source: “Annual SRO Census, 2005-06,” North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website

What Law Enforcement Agencies Provide SROs?

- Sheriff’s Department – 61%
- City/Town Police – 34%
- Special Police – 5%

Source: “Annual SRO Census, 2005-06,” North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention website

**School Crime and Violence Statistics:
2004-05 School Year**

- 10,107 reportable acts of crime and violence, up from 9800 acts in 2003-04

Source: 2004-05 Department of Public Instruction Annual Report on School Crime and Violence

**School Crime and Violence Statistics:
2004-05 School Year**

Four Most Reported Acts (91.8%):

- Possession of a controlled substance
- Possession of a weapon (not firearm/explosive) on school property
- Possession of an alcoholic beverage
- Assault on school personnel not resulting in injury

Source: 2004-05 Department of Public Instruction Annual Report on School Crime and Violence

**NC Department of Juvenile Justice
Statistics**

Top Ten Misdemeanor Offenses Reported:

1. Simple Assault (4567)
2. Larceny (3310)
3. Simple Affray (2116)
4. Injury to Real Property (1811)
5. Controlled Substance Offense (1558)

NC Department of Juvenile Justice Statistics

6. Communicating Threats (1535)
7. Injury to Personal Property >\$200 (1395)
8. Disorderly Conduct at School (1373)
9. Weapons on School Property (1330)
10. Injury to Personal Property <\$200 (1157)

Source: NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
2005 Annual Report

Crucial Case Law

- New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)
- In the Matter of: D.D., 146 N.C. App. 309 (2001)
- In the Matters of: J.F.M. and T.J.B., 168 N.C. App. 143 (2005)
- In the Matter of: S.W., 171 N.C. App. 335 (2005)
