

SRO (School Resource Officers) Alternatives

High Schools

North Carolina General Statute **does not** require all high schools to have SROs. However, every school district receives the dollar equivalent of one SRO position per high school (\$1,059,464) in **state** revenue to cover the expense of funding those positions. In the Guilford County Schools, our experience has shown that state funding does not cover this cost. During the 2006-07 school year, GCS is spending \$213,983.20 from **local** revenue to supplement state funds to provide SROs in our high schools.

Currently, high schools located within the city limits of High Point are served by SROs from the High Point Police Department; high schools in Greensboro are served by SROs from the Greensboro Police Department; and high schools located in Guilford County, but outside of the High Point and Greensboro City limits, are served by SROs from the Guilford County Sherriff's Department.

The Board asked the Central Office Staff to develop a list of alternatives to using SROs in high schools. That list includes:

1. Employ a private security firm to provide SRO services to all GCS high schools.
2. Allow high school principals the option of employing an additional assistant principal, counselor, or reading teacher in lieu of a SRO.
3. Allow high school principals the option of not employing a SRO and using the funds for staff training and/or student training/tutoring.

Middle Schools

North Carolina General Statute **does not** require middle schools to have SROs and the district does not receive state funds to pay for the positions. During the 2006-07 school year, GCS is spending \$1,343,691 from **local** revenue to provide SROs in the majority of our middle schools. Currently, middle schools located within the city limits of High Point are served by SROs from the High Point Police Department (with the exception of Southwest and Allan Jay Middle Schools which are served by the Guilford County Sherriff's Department); middle schools in Greensboro are served by SROs from the Greensboro Police Department; and middle schools located in Guilford County, but outside of the High Point and Greensboro City limits, are served by SROs from the Guilford County Sherriff's Department. Brown-Summit, Lincoln, and Northern Middle Schools do not have SROs.

The Board asked the Central Office Staff to develop a list of alternatives to using SROs in middle schools. That list includes:

1. Employ a private security firm to provide SRO services to all GCS middle schools.
2. Allow middle school principals the option of employing an additional assistant principal, counselor, or reading teacher in lieu of a SRO.
3. Allow middle school principals the option of not employing a SRO and using the funds for staff training and/or student training/tutoring.