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TY2024 Training Requirements to Obtain and Maintain Certification as a Massachusetts School Resource Officer

As a result of Police Reform legislation (see M.G.L. c. 6, § 116H below), the MPTC is responsible for setting the training standards for School Resource Officer (SRO) Certification and ongoing in- service training. Anyone who is designated as a School Resource Officer must fulfill the following requirements to obtain and maintain SRO certification with the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission.

TY24 Training Required for Obtaining POST SRO Certification

To obtain certification as a School Resource Officer, an officer must fulfill the following in-person training requirements approved and offered by the MPTC:

NASRO 5-Day Basic School Resource Officer Course. Officers must successfully complete the five-day course offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and approved by the MPTC. School Resource Officers are not required to retake this course each year if they have previously taken a NASRO Basic School Resource Officer Course approved by the MPTC and the completion of that course is accurately reflected in their Acadis account.

MPTC TY24 2-Day SRO In-Service Training Program. Officers must successfully complete a two- day training approved by the full Municipal Police Training Committee. This training will be offered twice during the training year. SROs must attend either one of these trainings to satisfy this requirement. Please note that the MPTC TY24 2-Day SRO In-Service Training Program is in addition to the 40 hours of in-service training required for all veteran law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth.

TY23 Adolescent Mental Health Course

Last training year, School Resource Officers were required to complete the one-and-a-half day NASRO Adolescent Mental Health course. In an effort to respect the limited time officers have, MPTC has included an Adolescent Mental Health section in the MPTC TY24 2-Day SRO In-Service Training Program. Therefore, officers are no longer required to take the NASRO Adolescent course for SRO certification.

How to Register for Upcoming Classes

School Resource Officers can register for all training requirements through their [ACADIS portals](#). Additional NASRO 5-Day Basic SRO classes will be offered as necessary.

1. NASRO 5-Day Basic SRO Course:

- Lynnfield: 10/9/23-10/13/23
- Randolph: 11/27/23-12/1/23
- Holyoke: 12/4/23-12/8/23
- Southbridge: 1/8/24-1/12/24
- Plymouth: 2/5/24-2/9/24

2. MPTC TY24 2-Day SRO In-service Training Program:

- November 1st and 2nd, 2023 – Four Points Sheraton Norwood
- March 12th and 13th, 2024 – Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center

MPTC School Resource Officer Liaison

Any questions about School Resource Officer training may be directed to MPTC Program Coordinator, Nicole Hamwey, at nicole.m.hamwey@mass.gov.

Police Reform Requirements for School Resource Officer Designation

M.G.L. c. 6, § 116H states in pertinent part:

(a) The municipal police training committee shall establish and develop an in-service training program designed to train school resource officers, as defined in section 37P of chapter 71. Such program shall include training on: (i) the ways in which legal standards regarding police interaction and arrest procedures differ for juveniles compared to adults; (ii) child and adolescent cognitive development, which shall include instruction on common child and adolescent behaviors, actions and reactions as well as the impact of trauma, mental illness, behavioral addictions, such as gaming and gambling disorder, and developmental disabilities on child and adolescent development and behavior; (iii) engagement and de-escalation tactics that are specifically effective with youth; and (iv) strategies for resolving conflict and diverting youth in lieu of making an arrest. Such program shall also include training related to: (i) hate crime identification and prevention training curriculum including acquisition of practical skills to prevent, respond to and investigate hate crimes and hate incidents and their impacts on victim communities; (ii) anti-bias, anti-racism and anti-harassment strategies; (iii) bullying and cyberbullying; and (iv) comprehensive training to help school resource officers interact effectively with school personnel, victim communities and build public confidence with cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

(b) The course of instruction, the learning and performance objectives and the curriculum and standards for training developed pursuant to this section shall be developed in consultation with experts on child and adolescent development and child trauma and with educators and attorneys experienced in juvenile and education law and preventing and addressing youth hate crimes.

Frequently Asked Questions

May a School Resource Officer be working in a school while waiting to take the NASRO 5-Day Basic SRO Course?

If an officer is currently enrolled in a NASRO 5-Day Basic SRO Course in Acadis, the officer may request to be conditionally certified as an SRO by POST. Please see [555 CMR10.000 Specialized Certification for School Resource Officers](#) for more information.

If an officer completes SRO training outside of the MPTC, will that training count towards SRO certification and/or in-service training requirements?

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 6, § 116H, only training established, developed, and delivered by the MPTC counts.

How does an officer apply for SRO certification?

Pursuant to [555 CMR 10.05](#), the Division of Police Certification within POST shall develop and make available on the POST website, an application form by which an officer or an officer's chief of police may apply for SRO certification for the officer. Additional details on formalizing POST's SRO certification will be forthcoming.