



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals

FROM: Sabrina Moore, PhD
Director, Office of Student Intervention Services

DATE: August 3, 2018

RE: State Funding for School Resource Officers
Application Deadline – August 17, 2018

For Fiscal Year 2018–19, the General Assembly appropriated \$2,000,000 in the General Fund for school resource officers (SROs). These funds, intended to increase the number of SROs serving in schools, will be made available to districts per the below proviso:

1.105. (SDE: School Safety Program) Funds appropriated for the School Safety Program shall be utilized by the department for the purpose of hiring certified law enforcement officers to serve as a school resource officer for school districts that otherwise would lack the adequate resources to hire their own school resource officers. In making determinations of eligibility the department shall use the most recent index of taxpaying ability as the district's indicator of ability to pay, with districts of the lowest index of taxpaying ability receiving priority consideration. Districts must apply for funding through the department and no districts shall receive an award of more than four certified school resource officer positions. In making awards the department shall provide funding directly to the local law enforcement agency to pay for the cost of the law enforcement officer that will serve as a full-time school resource officer.

All districts are eligible to apply for funding; however, priority will be given to districts that would otherwise lack adequate resources to hire an SRO as indicated by the index of taxpaying ability (ITA). As further evidence of a district's lack of adequate resources, the SCDE will consider whether or not the school for which funding is requested currently has full-time, part-time, or no SRO coverage. Awarded funds must be used to hire additional SROs or to increase the number of schools with full-time SRO coverage. These funds may not be used to supplant existing resources.

Because funds are limited, districts with the lowest index of taxpaying ability will be awarded funds for only one SRO, initially. If funds remain after the initial allocations are made, districts may be awarded funds for additional SROs. However, the total number of SROs funded may not exceed four. Attached is a list of districts and the corresponding ITA.

To apply for funding, district officials must complete and submit the online [SRO Funding Application](#) by **Friday, August 17, 2018**. Notification of funding will be announced by September 1, 2018.

If you have questions, please contact me at 803-734-8433 or smoore@ed.sc.gov.