

Volunteer School Resource Safety Officer Program

N.C. § 162-26

N.C. § 160A-288.4

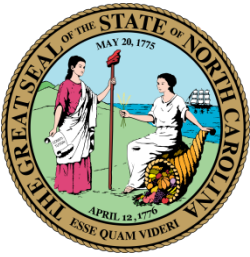
Sheriff Sam S. Page
Rockingham County





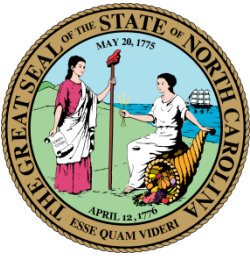
About Sheriff Sam Page:

- Sheriff of Rockingham County North Carolina since 1998.
- 35+ years in military and civilian law enforcement.
- Former School Resource Officer
- Current State Certified General Instructor
- Past President of NC Sheriffs' Association (2010–2011)



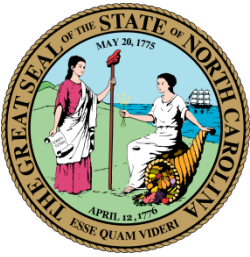
State Law

Pursuant to North Carolina § 162–26, a Sheriff may establish volunteer school safety resource officer program (first established in 2013 in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Newtown Connecticut and later revised in 2017):



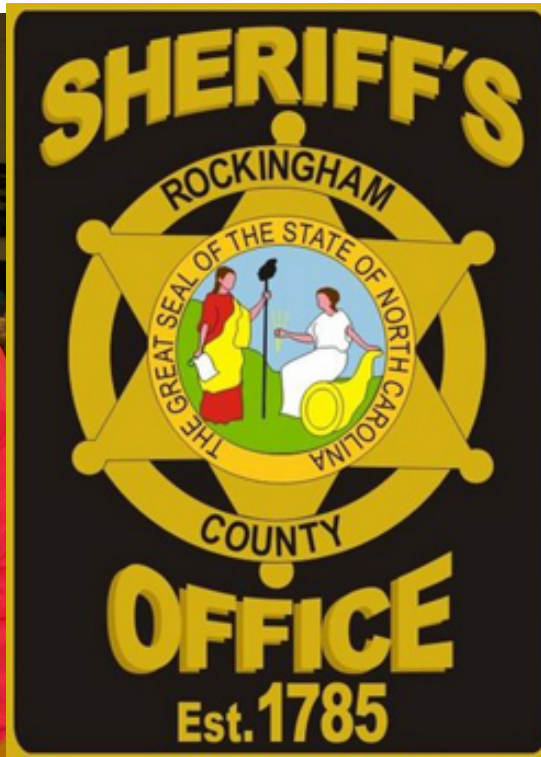
State Law (cont.)

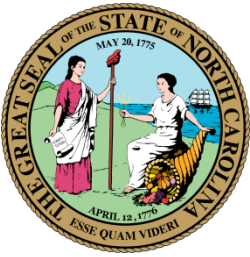
(a) The sheriff may establish a volunteer school safety resource officer program to provide non-salaried special deputies to serve as school safety resource officers in public schools. To be a volunteer in the program, a person must have prior experience as either



State Law (cont.)

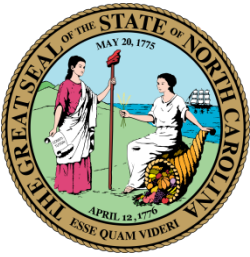
(i) a sworn law enforcement officer or





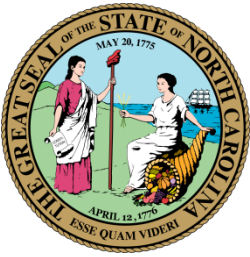
State Law (cont.)

(ii) a military police officer with a minimum of two years' service. If a person with experience as a military police officer is no longer in the armed services, the person must also have an honorable discharge.



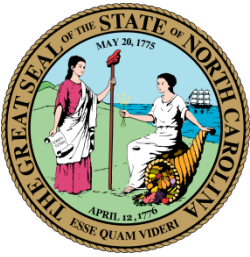
State Law (cont.)

A program volunteer must receive training on research into the social and cognitive development of elementary, middle, and high school children and must also meet the selection standards and any additional criteria established by the sheriff.



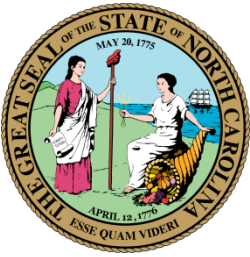
State Law (cont.)

(b) Each volunteer shall report to the sheriff and shall work under the direction and supervision of the sheriff or the sheriff's designee when carrying out the volunteer's duties as a school safety resource officer.



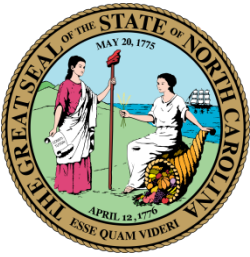
State Law (cont.)

No volunteer may be assigned to a school as a school safety resource officer until the volunteer has updated or renewed the volunteer's law enforcement training and has been certified by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission as meeting the educational and firearms proficiency standards required of persons serving as special deputy sheriffs.



State Law (cont.)

A person selected by the sheriff to serve as a volunteer under this section shall have the power of arrest while performing official duties as a volunteer school safety resource officer.



State Law (cont.)

(North Carolina § 160A-288.4 is similar law that covers Police Departments, Police Officers and Chiefs, whereas North Carolina § 162-26 covers Sheriffs Offices, Sheriff's Deputies and Sheriffs)

What does this mean?

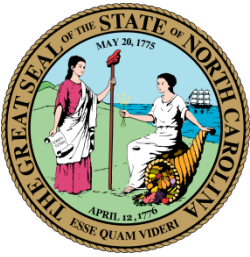
- Must be former law enforcement officer or military police officers to be eligible to volunteer.
- Will be vetted by “hiring” agency
- Will be armed as our current SROs



What does this mean?

- Must be willing to go through training that is still being developed (NC Justice Academy).
- Will answer to the Sheriff (or Police Chief)

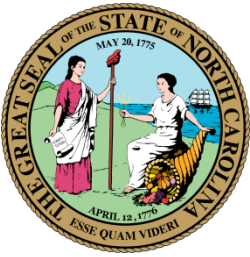




What's needed?

Training for volunteers needs to be effective and purpose specific without being so overwhelmingly timely that it dissuades potential volunteers from participating.

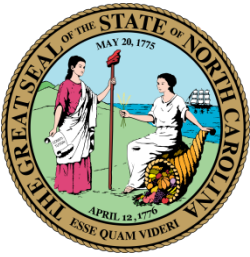
- Maybe 40 hours total?



What's needed?

TRAINING – FIREARMS (16 hours?)

- Use of Force law review
- Arrest, Search and Seizure
- Shooting Qualification/Scored
- Close Quarter Shooting Drills
- Tactical Drills
- Active Shooter Response

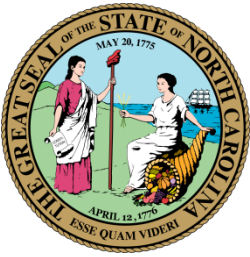


What's needed?

TRAINING – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (24 hours?)

- Specialized curriculum crafted from the existing N.C.J.A. SRO1 training.

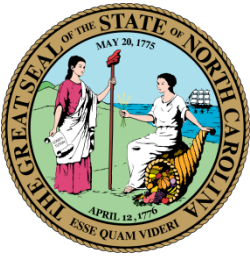




What's needed?

This training regiment should be “train the trainer”, meaning any Certified State Instructor can administer the required curriculum.

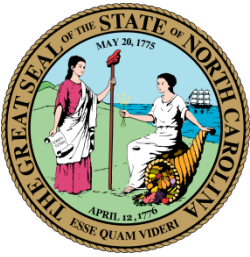
Reoccurring annual re-cert training for volunteers (Possibly 16 hours?) covering firearms qualification and any necessary legal updates.



What's needed?

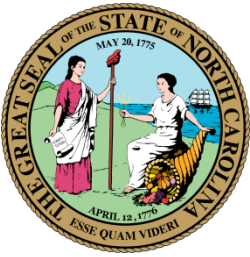
The School Resource Safety Officer Program is just one tool in the “toolbox”.





What's needed?

IDEALLY, funding for a full-time paid school resource officer, dedicated to each public school in N.C. is the best option in my opinion, along with more counselors and psychologists in the schools.



What's needed?

We hope this legislative body will consider additional funding for School Resource Officers through D.P.I. in the very near future.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Sheriff Sam Page
Rockingham County