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# **At-Risk Student Services / Alternative Schools**

# Key Takeaways

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- Product of HB6 (1995) - consolidating 7 allotments into this allotment
- Supplements basic allotments
- LEAs have considerable flexibility in meeting needs of at-risk students
  - Multiple funding sources are available for At-Risk students

# Purpose and Eligibility

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## Purpose

- At-risk allotment provides:
  - Special alternative instructional programs for at-risk students
  - Funding for dropout prevention, school safety officers (SSOs), summer school instruction and transportation, remediation, alcohol and drug prevention, early intervention, and preschool screening

## Eligibility

- All LEAs are eligible

# Who is Considered At-Risk?

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## Per State Board Policy

**“...a young person who because of a wide range of individual, personal, financial, familial, social, behavioral or academic circumstances may experience school failure or other unwanted outcomes unless interventions occur to reduce the risk factors.”**

# Who is Considered At-Risk

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## **Circumstances Placing a Student At Risk:**

- not meeting proficiency standards or grade retention;
- unidentified or inadequately addressed learning needs;
- alienation from school life;
- unchallenging curricula and/or instruction;
- tardiness and or poor school attendance;
- negative peer influence;
- unmanageable behavior;
- substance abuse and other health risk behaviors;
- abuse and neglect; and
- inadequate parental/family and/or school support

# Allotment Formula

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- Four basic steps:
  1. \$500,000 to State Board of Education
  2. Each LEA given the dollar equivalent needed to hire an SSO for each high school
  3. Funds for students in treatment programs (S.L. 1987-863)
  4. Of remaining funds
    - 50% based on Title I poverty count
    - 50% based on allotted ADM
    - Minimum allotment is dollar equivalent of two teachers and two instructional support personnel (\$226,978)

# Allotment Formula – Step 1

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## **State Board Allocation**

- Limited to \$500,000 per year
  - 0.23% of allotment in 07-08
- Recent initiatives include
  - Closing the Gap
  - Rapid Recovery and Project Recovery Courses
  - Senior Project Training Program
  - Graduation Project Professional Development and Project Management Pilot
  - Military Children

# Allotment Formula – Step 2

## School Safety Officers

- Each LEA given the dollar equivalent needed to hire an SSO for each high school (\$37,838)

# of High Schools	SSO Salary	Total SSO Allotment	Share of Total Allotment
499	\$37,838	\$18,881,162	8.57%

- Note: LEAs do *not* have to hire an SSO with these funds
  - Can use federal or local funds
  - Local agreements for free services



# Allotment Formula – Step 3

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## Treatment Programs

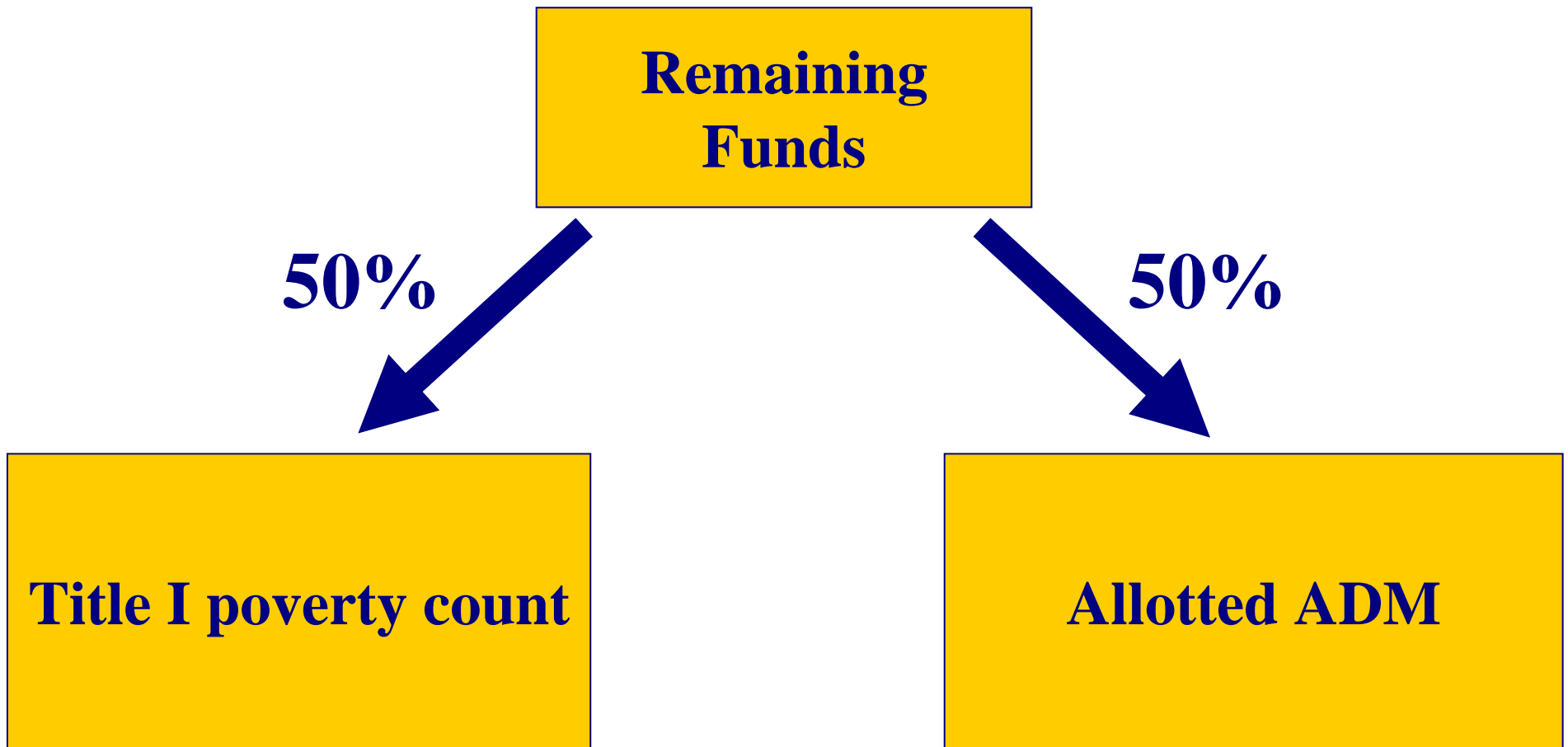
- For 2007-08, \$1.4 million
  - 0.64% of allotment in 07-08
  
- Six LEAs receive:

– Buncombe County	\$132,802
– Guilford County	\$540,412
– Harnett County	\$132,802
– Mecklenburg County	\$265,602
– Moore County	\$132,802
– Pitt County	\$211,924

# Allotment Formula – Step 4

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## Remaining Funds

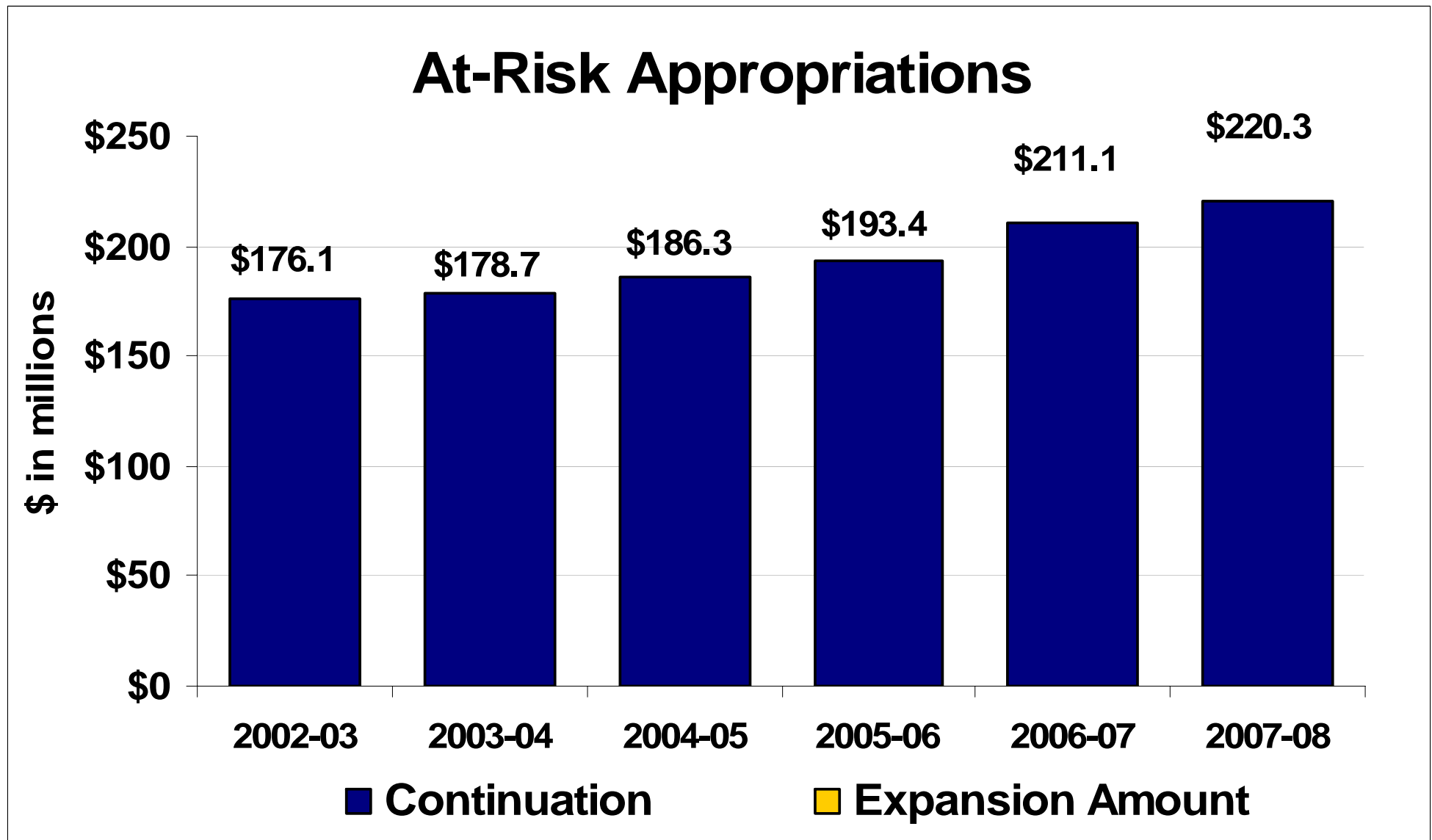


# Allotment Formula Recap

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- Four basic steps:
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  4. Of remaining funds
    - 50% based on Title I poverty count
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# Appropriations History



Source: Department of Public Instruction

# Eligible Uses of Funds

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- Funding for school safety officers, summer school instruction and transportation, remediation, alcohol and drug prevention, early intervention, safe schools, and preschool screening
- Priority of funds per 2005 budget:
  - provide instructional positions or instructional support positions and/or professional development;
  - provide intensive in-school and/or after-school remediation; and
  - purchase diagnostic software and progress monitoring tools.

# Eligible Uses of Funds

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- LEA flexibility:
  - Funds cannot be transferred out of this category
  - Funds can be transferred into this category
- LEAs have until August 31 to expend funds
  - Allows expenditure on summer programs

# Eligible Uses of Funds

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## **Many State allotments can be used for at-risk students**

- All basic allotments
- DSSF
- At-Risk Student Services / Alternative Schools
- Improving Student Accountability
- Limited English Proficiency
- Low Wealth
- Small County
- Children With Special Needs
- Career Technical Education

# Eligible Uses of Funds

## **Federal money can also be used for at-risk students**

- For 2006-07 school year, over \$650 million:
  - Title I: \$322.6 million
  - IDEA: \$274.4 million
  - Vocational Education: \$21.5 million
  - 21st Century Learning Community Centers: \$20.5 million
  - Safe & Drug-Free Schools: \$5.8 million
  - Rural & Low Income Schools Program: \$4.5 million
  - Homeless Children and Youth: \$1.1 million

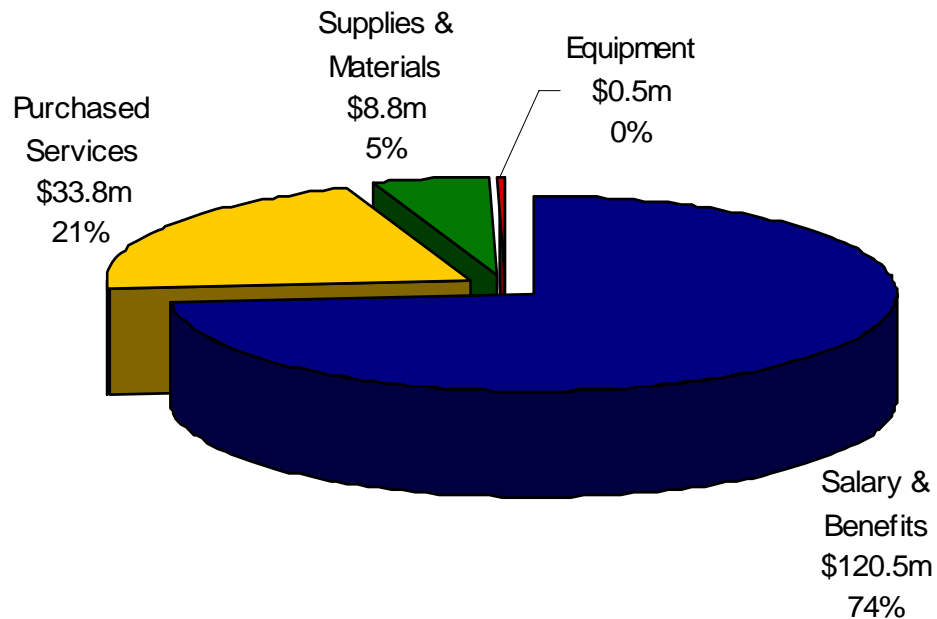


# FY 2006-07 Expenditures

## At-Risk

### FY 2006-07 Expenditures

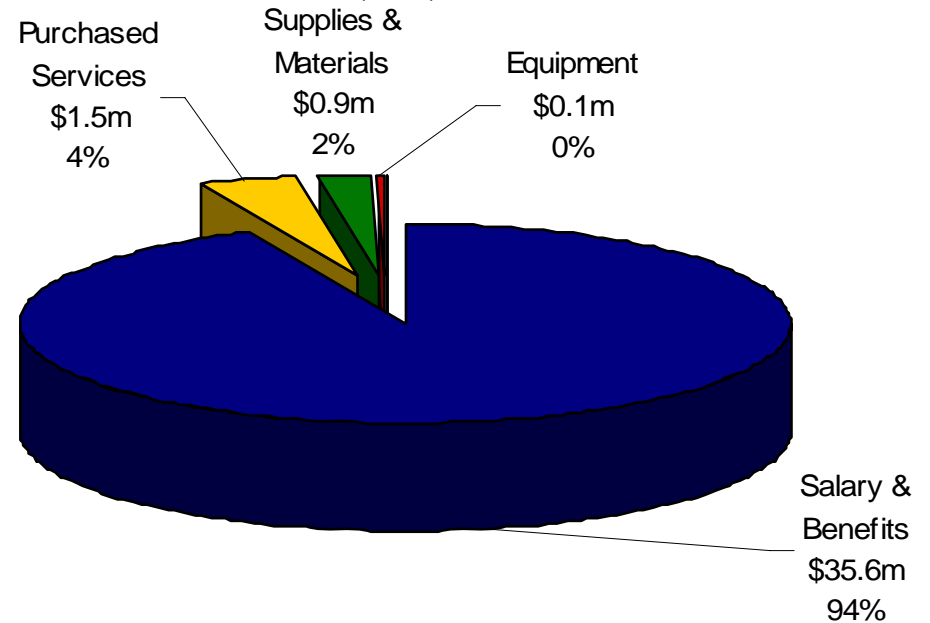
\$163,445,558



## Alternative Schools

### FY 2006-07 Expenditures

\$38,162,064



Source: Department of Public Instruction

# What is a School Safety Officer?

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- School Safety Officer (SSO) and School Resource Officer (SRO) are often used confused
- SSO – “any other person who is regularly present in a school for the purpose of promoting and maintaining safe and orderly schools and *includes a school resource officer*” (G.S.14-202.4)

# What is a School Resource Officer?

## **DJJDP – Center for the Prevention of School Violence**

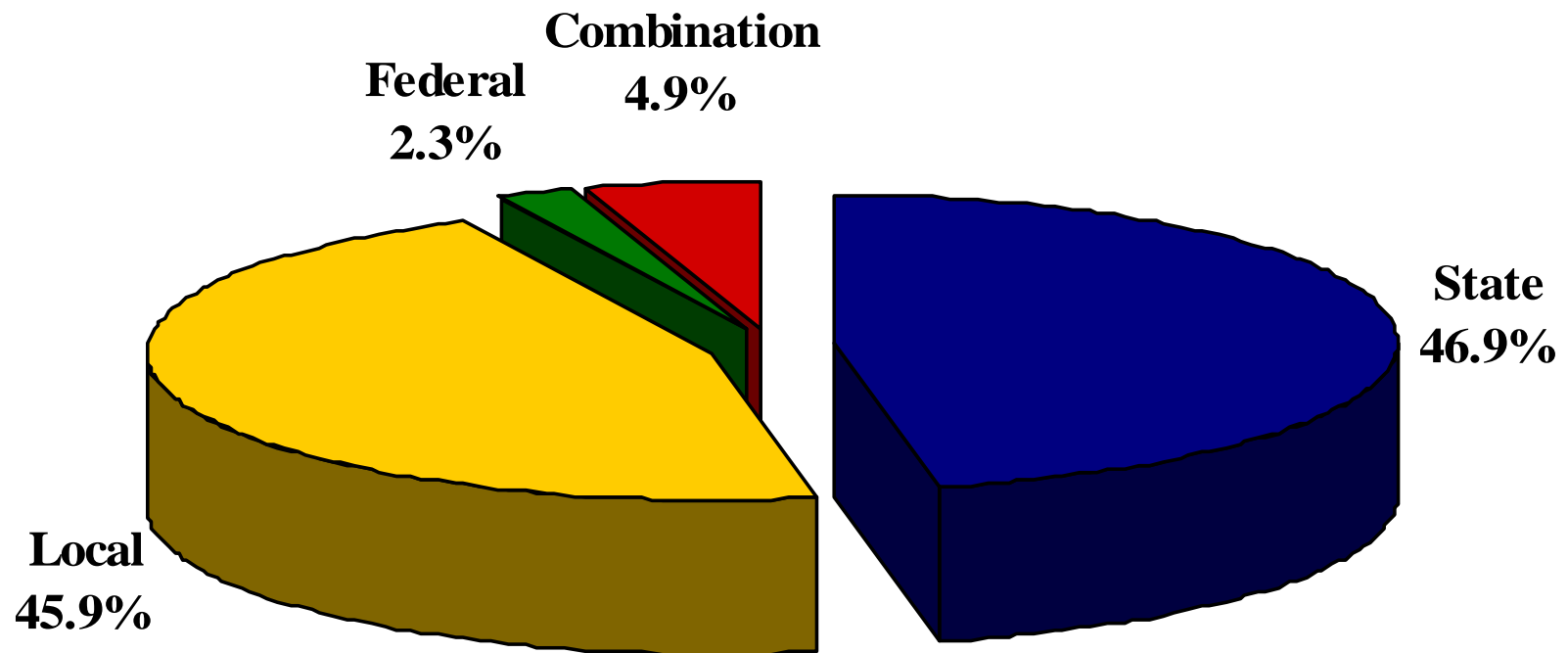
**A certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a set of schools**

**The SRO is specifically trained to perform three roles:**

- 1. law enforcement officer**
- 2. law-related counselor**
- 3. law-related education teacher**

# School Resource Officer Funding

## SRO Funding: 2006-07 (total SROs: 778)



Source: Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Center for the Prevention of School Violence, *Annual School Resource Officer Census: 2006 - 2007*

# Key Takeaways

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- Product of HB6 (1995) - consolidating 7 allotments into this allotment
- Supplements base allotments
- LEAs have considerable flexibility in meeting needs of at-risk students
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# Questions for Consideration

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- Collapse supplemental allotments for at-risk students (At-Risk, DSSF, Improving Student Accountability, etc.) to increase simplicity?
- Bifurcate At-Risk allotment to focus on specific populations?
- Require SSO at middle schools?

# Comparing Similar Allotments

State Allotment	FY 07-08 Funding	Targeted Population
At-Risk / Alternative Schools	\$220,251,092	Students at risk of dropping out
Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding	\$69,209,078	Disadvantaged students
Improving Student Accountability	\$37,762,504	Students performing below grade level

State Allotment	Allotment Based On
At-Risk / Alternative Schools	Title I poverty count / ADM
Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding	% in single parent family % below poverty line % with parent without h.s. degree
Improving Student Accountability	# of students below grade level

- Note that DSSF requires spending plan requiring State Board approval