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## **New Research Confirms Critical Role of School Resource Officers in Protecting California's Students on Campus**

*Research Brief Showcases How School Resource Officers Prevent Threats, Foster Positive Relationships, and Enhance School Safety for Students*

**Sacramento, CA** — Today, the [Peace Officers Research Association of California](#) (PORAC) published a new [research brief](#) reaffirming the value School Resource Officers (SROs) provide in schools to promote a safe learning environment for students across California. SROs are sworn officers who receive the same training as patrol officers, oftentimes even with additional training specific to working in the school environment. They play a multifaceted role on campuses as trusted adults, educators, mentors, emergency responders, and community representatives that strengthen the learning environment for students and teachers alike.

“We know all too well that the ongoing frequency of active shooter incidents, along with other safety risks ranging from drug dealing to bullying and harassment, have elevated school safety concerns to unprecedented levels,” said **Brian R. Marvel, President of PORAC**. “Our next generation deserves a learning environment that doesn’t require active shooter drills and the immense emotional and psychological toll that comes with that. We as parents deserve to have peace of mind that our children are safe at school. Unfortunately, that just isn’t the reality we live in anymore. That is why it is absolutely critical that the officers tasked with protecting California’s future have the training and resources they need to succeed.”

SROs are vital to the daily safety and protection of students across the country. In fact, Secret Service data shows that from 2006-2018, **SROs played a direct part in preventing nearly one-third of all thwarted attacks on schools and were the first to receive the tip in nearly one of every eight schools** – showcasing their instrumental impact in stopping potentially catastrophic attacks.

“As a school police officer, the first thing they say to me is ‘Misses, are you keeping us safe today?’ Yes, we’re here to keep you safe”, said **Julie Spry, Vice President of the Los Angeles School Police Management Association**. “This is truly one of the most rewarding things you can do.”

“For me, as a school police officer, I see the fruits of my efforts,” said **Jesus Montana, Police Sergeant at the San Diego Unified School District**. “When I see our youth, who I mentored, walk across the stage to graduate, I know they would not be there if I wasn’t there to help them through life’s challenges.”

The [brief](#) highlights several key recommendations for how elected officials can support SROs:

- **Increased Resources:** Create a statewide grant program to provide school districts with resources to partner with local law enforcement to establish SRO programs.

- **Federal Training Standards:** Establish a federal minimum training and use of force standard to create consistency in how officers are trained to respond to school-based calls.
- **Response Plans:** Adopt policies that ensure SROs are in the best position to respond to active shooters or other mass casualty attacks, allowing communities to tailor response to fit local needs.

PORAC is deeply committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to grow and thrive without fear. We look forward to working with elected officials on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation that expands access to SROs, creates guidelines for federal training standards, develops standardized response plans, and provides officers with the training and equipment they need to be prepared to respond to all potential situations.

Read the new research brief and learn more here: <https://porac.org/research/school-resource-officer-issue-brief/>

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**About the Peace Officers Research Association of California:**

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. PORAC represents over 82,000 public safety members and over 955 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.