

PRO - Prevention Resource Officer Program

- **Where law enforcement and education meet!**



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PRO - Prevention Resource Officers in WV schools

- The PRO Program is a cooperative effort between schools and law enforcement to:
 - improve student's attitudes and knowledge of criminal justice and law enforcement;
 - to prevent kids from committing crimes;
 - to be a mentor to youth;
 - to provide a safer environment;
 - to combine safety and child advocacy assuring a better school experience for all WV youth.

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PRO - Prevention Resource Officers in WV Schools

- The program has three main components:
 - **Prevention** – The officers facilitate classes on non-traditional educational topics;
 - **Mentoring** – Officers work with students and are a positive mentor to the students they interact with daily and;
 - **Safety** – LE is trained to recognize potential danger, prevent violence, and how to respond to a dangerous situation.

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PRO - Prevention Resource Officers in WV schools

- The program places current, state certified police officers, who are also certified Prevention Resource Officers, in local middle and high schools.
- The officer's main goal is to prevent juveniles from committing crime. In doing so they
 - are present in one school at least 35 hours per week;
 - attend extra curricular activities;

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PRO - Prevention Resource Officers in WV schools continued...

- Facilitate at least four non-traditional educational class per month such as:
 - juvenile law,
 - domestic violence,
 - underage drinking,
 - drug and alcohol prevention,
 - and child abuse and neglect.

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PRO REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a current, state certified police officer with at least one year of law enforcement experience and be employed by city or county law enforcement agency.
- Must follow the PRO Guidelines as established by DJCS.
- Submit Monthly Progress Reports to DJCS

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Training:

- To be a Certified PRO, officers must attend a training conference prior to being placed in the school. This training is mandatory and must be completed by all PRO officers annually to maintain Certification.
- First year PROs are given training on the program, what their duties and responsibilities are as a PRO and provide tools to help them transition from the road to the school.

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History of the PRO Program

- The PRO Program is celebrating it's 28th year!
- The PRO Program was first implemented at Hurricane High School in 1997.
 - It started with one officer in one community who worked on and developed the initial program.
- It originated with a Juvenile Justice Changing Directions grant then was expanded into the school through Juvenile Justice and Local Law Enforcement grant funding.

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History of the PRO Program continued...

- In 1998 DJCS trained 4 new officers bringing our total to 6
- In 1999 DJCS had 18 officers in 8 counties
- Last year we trained over 140 officers

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Statewide Planning and Evaluation

- In December of 1999, a statewide Planning and Evaluation Team for the program was created.
 - The membership consisted of PRO officers from across the state, DJCS staff and an open invitation to the WV Board of Education.
 - The team met quarterly and discussed pros and cons of the program, recommended necessary changes or additions, planned for the future, discussed training opportunities and recommended evaluation strategy and policy and procedure.

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Statewide Planning and Evaluation & Regional Liaison Officers

- Over the last few years, the P&E Team has transitioned into the Regional Liaison model that is currently being used.
- Regional Liaisons are experienced PRO Officers that serve as certified trainers for the program.
- Additionally, the Liaisons perform the duties previously handled by the P&E Team.
- Officers stay in contact with their Regional Liaison monthly.
- All progress reports are to be submitted monthly to your Liaison as well as your DJCS Program Specialist.

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DJCS Funding Sources for the Program



- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Title II (JJDP)
- Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- Local Funds (funds are provided by the City, County, Board of Education, etc.)



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CHALLENGES

- Transition from street cop to school cop
- Getting students and staff used to an officer in school (if no PRO or new PRO)
- Building rapport with students & parents
- Understanding the educational system
- Getting keys, access cards, email, etc.
- Finding a class to deliver classes/talks

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IMPACT

- Safer School
- Improving student success rate
- Safe Haven for students
- Establishing a positive culture
- Bridging the gap between Law Enforcement, Education, and Community

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SUCCESS STORIES

- George
- Bowling
- MCA Walker
- Honey Buns
- Sam
- Homecoming Dance

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QUESTIONS?

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The End

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