

# *School Safety and Security Staff Definitions*

**Safety and Security Staff** is a new [Engrossed Substitute House Bill \(ESHB\) 1214 \(2021–22\)](#) category of classified staff. It is defined as SROs, school security officers (SSOs), campus security officers (CSOs), and any other commissioned or noncommissioned employees or contractors whose primary job duty is to provide safety or security services for a public school.

**School Resource Officer (SRO)** is a commissioned law enforcement officer in Washington state with sworn authority to make arrests. They are specifically deployed in community-oriented policing and assigned by the employing police department or sheriff's office to work in schools to build positive relationships with students and respond to potential crimes affecting or occurring in or around K-12 schools. SROs focus on keeping students out of the criminal justice system. SROs are not school district employees, but rather are employed by the law enforcement agency which has a contractual arrangement with that district.

**School Security Officer (SSO) and Campus Security Officer (CSO)** are terms frequently used to identify classified school district employees employed to perform school safety-related functions similar to those of SROs. SSOs and CSOs are district employees, are not commissioned law enforcement officers, and cannot make arrests.

**Contracted Security Personnel** are licensed professionals who work for private security companies and provide safety or security services for a public school on a contractual basis. Contracted security personnel have met prior training requirements to function in their school safety and security capacity. The Department of Licensing licenses security guards and security companies.

