



Kim Vickers  
Executive Director

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

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## Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees  
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services  
Regarding: **School Based Law Enforcement Training**  
Date: August 27, 2019

In the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature, HB 2684 introduced requirements for peace officers working as School Resource Officers (SRO's) and Independent School District Police Officers (ISDPO's) in schools with a student population of 30,000 students or more. In short, the requirements were that the SRO's and ISDPO's complete a School Based Law Enforcement Training program (SBLE) within 120 days of assignment to that duty AND obtain an SBLE Proficiency Certificate from the Commission-

(<http://www.tcole.texas.gov/sites/default/files/FormsAppsPubs/CRT%2011.002%20School%20Based%20Law%20Enforcement%20Proficiency%20Certificate%205.21.2019.pdf>). Officers in schools with smaller populations were not affected. Course 4064 was created to fill this requirement (several other equivalent courses may be substituted, see Commission website for more information- <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/course-equivalents-0>).

In the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature, SB 11 and HB 2195 modified the provisions of the previous Bill. The major change was the deletion of the school population requirement- meaning that ALL SRO's and ALL ISDPO's were now required to complete the SBLE training. Also changed was the time frame for training to be completed- raised from 120 days to 180 days. Lastly, a new course was added to the requirement to obtain the SBLE Certificate. A new SBLE Active Shooter course (2195, or its equivalent), will be required to obtain the SBLE Certification. For those officers who already have the SBLE Certification, the Active Shooter course will still be required. No time frame was set for completion of that training, but, for liability reasons, the sooner, the better.

This seems relatively simple, but numerous questions are already being raised- here are the most frequent.

1. What about my officers who were already appointed as SRO's and ISDPO's before the bill goes into effect on 09/01/2019? Those officers who were already appointed at schools with a student population below 30,000 before 09/01/2019 have until 09/01/2020 to complete the required training- a little bit of a break.
2. I have officers who work at the school only occasionally, do they need the training? Possibly- yes. The definition of SRO is very broad (Occupations Code 1701.601). In layman's terms, it says any peace officer assigned to a school by his agency to teach safety or drug education, to provide a police presence, or other similar services is an SRO. If your officers fit this description,



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they must obtain the training. For any questions about the applicability of this definition, consult your agency legal advisors. This is a definition with MAJOR liability implications, if not properly interpreted.

3. My officers contract directly with the school to provide security services, do the requirements still apply? Possibly- yes. Once again, you must consult your legal advisors for their opinion. Also consider things that would lead a normal person to believe the officers are assigned by their agency- do they wear the agency uniform while on campus, drive an agency assigned vehicle, are they covered by your agency insurance/Worker's Compensation? The Commission recommends that you err on the side of caution, and take every effort to increase your effectiveness (training) and reduce your liability (also through training).