

Sheriff's Officer Ahmed Mackey has been a law enforcement officer for nine years and has been with the Sheriff's Office since January 2000. He has worked court, patrol and warrants. He is also assigned to the Sheriff's Office Gang Unit. He is a certified county substitute teacher and has extensive experience working with kids as a basketball coach for 13 years and a mentor for the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program. He is also certified as a G.R.E.A.T. (**Gang Resistance And Education Training**) instructor and is currently seeking to finish obtaining his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.

School Discipline

Disciplining students is, and shall continue to be a school responsibility. However, if the principal, and/or his designee believe an incident may be a violation of the law, he may contact the assigned SRO, who shall then determine whether law enforcement action is necessary.

The Somerset County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer has been chosen through a competitive selection process. He is a dedicated officer and has shown a commitment to improving our community. He has demonstrated a keen interest in working with young people in our schools. His desire to develop more positive relationships with students, faculty, and parents and create a safer learning environment will enable the partnership between the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and the Somerset County Board of Education to become a great success.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of County Schools

David Livingston (908) 231-7171

Superintendent of Vocational School

Michael Maddaluna (908) 526-0900 X 7212

Superintendent of Alternative Schools

Thomas Boyle (908) 707-1640

Somerset County Vo-Tech

Principal Edmund Jones (908) 526-8900

Somerset Academy

Principal Hal Dunsavage (908) 707-0070

Somerset Alternative School

Adeline Wierzbicki (908) 231-7280



Frank J. Provenzano
Sheriff

Joseph P. Lamont, Jr., Undersheriff

Ahmed Mackey, Sheriff's Officer

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Somerset County

**Sheriff's
Office**



Frank J. Provenzano
Sheriff

**School Resource
Program**

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

History:

The SRO Program began in Flint, Michigan during the late 1950's. Officers had set a goal to improve their relationship with the youth in their community. Officers were assigned to the school district full time to serve as counselors and teachers. The first task of the police officers was to determine their acceptance in the schools based on the students' attitudes toward law enforcement. The first year of this program was deemed a great success and was well received by School Board officials, principals, teachers, parents, and most importantly the students. The Flint, Michigan School Resource Officer Program was nationally recognized in 1973, and has since become the model program across North America.

Goals of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office SRO Program:

- Improve police and youth relations.
- Increase positive attitudes toward law enforcement.
- Provide for a secure and safe learning environment.
- Reduce juvenile crime through counseling.

Our program has been designed to take a proactive role in reducing incidents of drug and alcohol abuse, delinquency, youth violence, as well as, other issues affecting the educational environment and impacting our community. This will be accomplished through a joint effort between the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and the Somerset County School System, with our focus on education, prevention, open communication, and information sharing.

The program will provide the teachers, administrators, and staff with information concerning school and community problems that affect our students and their classroom performance. This will allow the school and the Sheriff's Office to intervene at the early stages of a potential problem. Having this cooperation will encourage an improved dialogue between the Sheriff's Office and school officials creating an easier means to develop solutions to address student, faculty, and parental concerns.

The SRO will assume three primary functions or roles in the school community:

As an Instructor – The SRO will provide a variety of educational opportunities to the school community through law related presentations for students, faculty, and parents.

As a Resource Provider – The SRO can provide informal counseling to students and parents. This counseling can range from mediation of student problems to guiding students and parents to the appropriate agency.

As A Sheriff Officer – the SRO will be a positive law enforcement presence in the school community and act as a role model for students. Uniformed officers also present a deterrent to violence, drug use, vandalism, and theft. Their presence will provide an immediate increase in safety and security for both students and staff.

Duties of the SRO:

The duties to be performed by the SRO will be directed by Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano through the Sheriff's Office chain of command, in cooperation with the Somerset County Superintendent, David S. Livingston, and/or his designee. SRO duties may include, but are not limited to:

The SRO shall, at all times, act as a role model for students and faculty by demonstrating appropriate attitude, behavior, courtesy and respect.

The SRO shall provide assistance in programs for peer mediation, conflict resolution, and peer leadership.

The SRO shall be certified by the State of New Jersey, Department of Education, to substitute teach in Somerset County Schools. He will offer specialized, short-term programs involving a range of topics such as security, crime prevention, drug and alcohol resistance education, and the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

The SRO shall attend school functions, such as athletic events, dances, canteens, field trips, and

when requested, faculty, PTO and Board of Education meetings to provide additional support and visibility.

The SRO shall assist school personnel in dealing with emergencies and recommend security measures, where indicated.

The SRO shall take all necessary action to ensure the safety of all school personnel.

Officers are Employees of the County

The School Resource Officer will be assigned to the school on a full-time basis and be looked upon as a member of the school faculty. However, the Sheriff's Officer assigned remains an employee of the county and its Sheriff's Office. The SRO shall remain subject to all rules and regulations of the Sheriff's Office and shall not be considered an employee of the Somerset County School System. The SRO will act under the authority granted to them by Constitutional Law, New Jersey Statutes, The New Jersey Attorney General Guidelines, local county ordinance, policy set forth by the Somerset County Sheriff's Office, and the State Memorandum of Agreement between Educators and Law Enforcement officials.

