

# 2019 Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS)

Conducted by:  
Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice  
RTI International



The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) will conduct a national data collection to generate detailed, accurate, and reliable national statistics describing the scope, size, characteristics, and functions of law enforcement personnel who work and interact in a school environment. BJS has contracted with RTI International and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to design and implement the Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS), which will be conducted from Fall 2019 through Spring 2020. SLEPS will include two surveys, one with law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and the second with school resource officers (SROs).

## LEA Survey Content

LEAs will be asked to complete the LEA survey to capture information on the programs supporting officers working in schools, including measures of:

- SRO program characteristics
- SRO policies and assigned responsibilities
- SRO recruitment, training, and supervision
- SRO number and characteristics
- Training required for SROs
- Activities performed by SROs

LEAs will also be asked to provide a roster of SROs that will be used to select a sample of officers to receive the SRO survey.

## SRO Survey Content

Selected SROs will be asked for information relating to their work, including measures of:

- Law enforcement and SRO career experience
- Certifications
- Training received
- Regular law enforcement, mentoring, and teaching activities conducted as part of SRO duties
- Characteristics of the school to which primarily assigned

There is currently no national-level information about the number, roles, functions, and regular activities of police officers assigned to schools. SLEPS is designed to fill this gap with critical information that can inform research and policy on SRO programs. SLEPS will utilize BJS' 2018 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA) to select a sample of approximately 2,000 LEAs that employ SROs to receive an invitation to participate in SLEPS. For the purposes of SLEPS, an SRO is defined as a sworn law enforcement officer who is assigned to work in any public K-12 school.

BJS is authorized to conduct this data collection under 34 U.S.C § 10132 and will protect and maintain the confidentiality of all personally identifiable information (PII) to the fullest extent under federal law.

SLEPS findings will be publicly available in BJS reports and the data will be archived at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

## SLEPS Schedule

### Fall 2019–Winter 2020

- BJS will send a letter inviting LEAs to participate in SLEPS.
- Agencies will be asked to complete the LEA survey and provide a roster of their officers working in schools, to be used to draw an officer sample for the officer-level survey.
- RTI and PERF will manage access to the survey website and collect the survey data and officer rosters.

### Winter–Spring 2020

- RTI will use the officer rosters provided by agencies to draw the officer sample.
- BJS will send a letter inviting officers to participate in SLEPS.
- RTI and PERF will manage access to the survey website and collect the survey data.

### Summer 2020–Spring 2021

- Results will be processed and analyzed.

### Summer 2021

- BJS will publish reports on the findings.

For more information on SLEPS, visit <https://bjslecs.org/SLEPS2019>.

If you have questions about SLEPS, please contact:

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