

**Summary of Feedback and Questions  
for the Addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO)  
to Granby Public Schools from the Community-Wide Survey**

**Summary of Positive Feedback:**

**1. Enhanced School Safety & Security**

- Strong consensus that an SRO will provide an added layer of security, making schools safer for students, staff, and the community.
- Several comments highlight that having an officer on-site would deter crime, prevent incidents, and improve emergency response times.
- Some believe the presence of an armed officer is essential, particularly given recent school threats.

**2. Positive Relationship Building & Mentorship**

- Many respondents stress the value of an SRO in building trust between students and law enforcement.
- Testimonials from parents, teachers, and officers note that SROs serve as mentors, providing guidance and fostering positive interactions with youth.
- Emphasis on ensuring the selected officer is well-trained in social-emotional development, trauma-informed care, and special education needs.

**3. Alignment with Surrounding Districts & Best Practices**

- Many express surprise that Granby does not already have an SRO, noting that surrounding school districts have successfully implemented this role.
- Educators from other districts cite firsthand experience of SROs contributing positively to school culture and student well-being.

**4. Funding Considerations & Shared Responsibility**

- Some believe funding should come from the town, not just the Board of Education, since the benefits extend beyond school grounds.
- Suggestions to use existing funds or reallocate resources to minimize budgetary impact.
- A few respondents propose cost-sharing models, such as partnerships with local law enforcement agencies.

**5. School-Specific Implementation Considerations**

- Agreement that the officer should be primarily based at the high school and middle school, where incidents are more frequent.
- Questions raised about scheduling, particularly regarding how time would be split across four schools and whether the officer would be available after school hours.
- Several recommend hiring multiple SROs or implementing a rotation schedule to maximize coverage.

## **6. Additional Safeguards & Training Expectations**

- Strong emphasis on the importance of selecting an SRO with proper training in conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and mental health awareness.
- Some express concerns about potential disproportionate disciplinary actions against minority and special education students, urging proactive oversight and tracking of outcomes.
- Recommendations for the SRO to be involved in equity initiatives and receive ongoing anti-bias training.

## **7. Long-Term Benefits & Community Impact**

- Many believe the role of an SRO extends beyond security, fostering a sense of community and improving overall school climate.
- Testimonials from former officers and educators affirm that SROs help students feel safer, reduce anxiety, and enhance relationships between schools and law enforcement.
- Some suggest a trial period or periodic evaluations to ensure effectiveness.

## **Summary of Concerns:**

### **1. Budget & Cost**

- Many respondents believe the \$100,000 allocation is too high and not justified.
- Some suggest reallocating funds to mental health services, teacher salaries, academic programs, or school resources instead.

### **2. Alternative Approaches to School Safety**

- Concerns that enforcing existing discipline policies and providing consequences for student behavior would be more effective than hiring an SRO.
- Many believe additional mental health professionals, school counselors, or behavioral specialists would better address student needs.
- Some suggest reinvesting in educational resources rather than adding a security measure.

### **3. Effectiveness of SROs & Research-Based**

- Some cite studies questioning the effectiveness of SROs in preventing school violence.
- Concerns that SROs may contribute to increased disciplinary actions, particularly for vulnerable student groups (students with disabilities, minority students).

### **4. Law Enforcement & School Environment**

- Concerns about having an armed officer in a school setting, with some opposed to introducing firearms into the school environment.
- Belief that police presence may create a negative or intimidating atmosphere rather than a supportive one.
- Fears of potential racial profiling or unnecessary criminalization of student behavior.

## **5. Alternative Policing Strategies**

- Some suggest continuing the past practice of periodic visits by police officers rather than hiring a full-time SRO.
- Others recommend integrating existing town officers into the school in a limited role.

## **Questions to Address:**

### **1. SRO Role & Responsibilities**

- How will the SRO's time be allocated across the four schools? Will they spend more time at GMHS and GMMS than at the elementary schools?
- Will the SRO be available outside traditional school hours to address incidents occurring at practices, games, and other after-school events?
- Will teachers and staff, including specialized programs like the BEAR program, have access to the officer for support?
- Will the SRO have responsibilities beyond security, such as assisting with administrative duties, discipline, or student engagement?

### **2. Budget & Cost Considerations**

- Is \$100,000 a comparable salary to what other towns of similar size pay for an SRO?
- Why does this budgeted position pay higher than a Granby PD officer per hour?
- Can other expenses be trimmed to offset the cost, or could the role be part-time, shared with another district, or filled through overtime hours for existing officers?
- Have alternative security measures been considered, such as hiring multiple security guards or staging old police vehicles outside schools as a deterrent?

### **3. Logistical & Operational**

- Questions about how an SRO would be utilized across multiple schools and whether one officer can effectively cover all buildings.
- Looking for additional details on the officer's role, responsibilities, and expected impact on school safety.

### **4. Justification & Effectiveness**

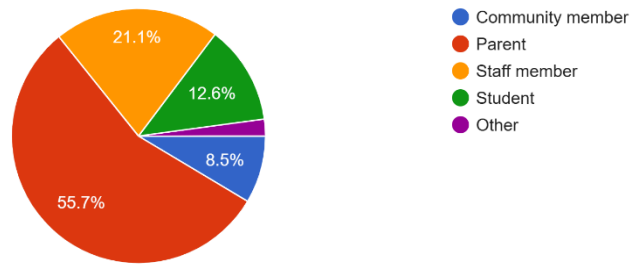
- Is there data proving that an SRO improves safety and reduces incidents in schools?
- Since Granby police are already called to schools 2-3 times per week, why is a full-time SRO necessary?
- Have teachers and staff expressed a need for an SRO? Would additional deans, social workers, or school counselors be more beneficial for student safety and well-being?
- If the goal is to build relationships with students, is a police officer the best fit for that role?

## **Conclusion:**

The overwhelming sentiment supports adding an SRO to Granby Public Schools, citing safety, mentorship, and community engagement benefits. While funding and implementation details need careful planning, stakeholders widely agree that this is a necessary step to protect and support students, staff, and the broader community.

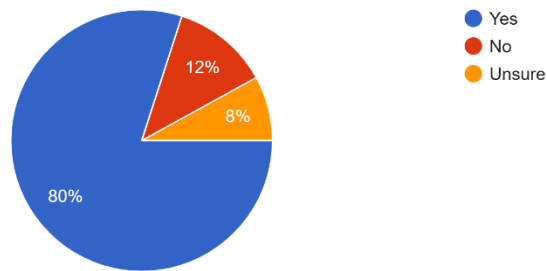
Please identify your relationship with Granby Public Schools:

749 responses



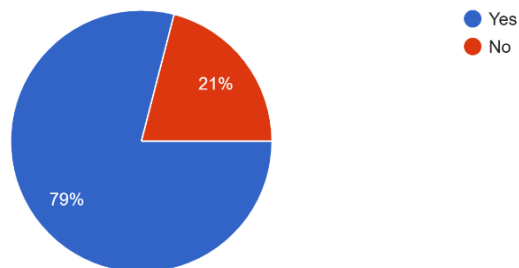
Do you think Granby Public Schools should add a School Resource Officer position to our school district for the 2025-2026 school year?

749 responses



Do you support an increase to the school district's operating budget to add this position at a cost of approximately \$100,000 annually?

749 responses



Do you believe having a School Resource Officer will be beneficial for Granby Public Schools?

749 responses

