

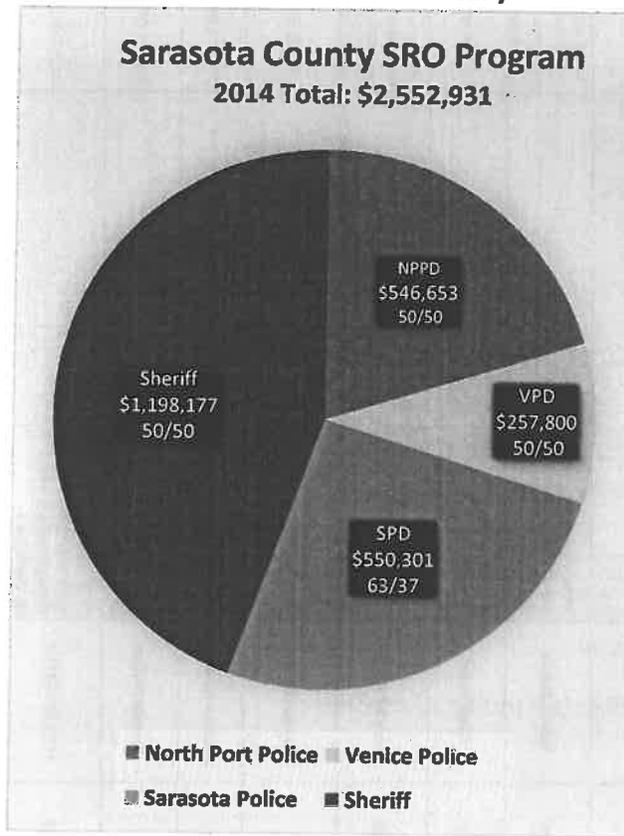
Overview of School Resource Officer/Deputy Program Sarasota County, Florida

The School Resource Officer/Deputy Program for Sarasota County elementary schools started in 1980, focused on teaching and mentoring, implementing programs like Officer Friendly and Danger Stranger. In most cases one School Resource Officer/Deputy was assigned for every two or three elementary schools. The high school and middle school programs developed later, focused on law enforcement, law-related counseling, and law-related teaching. Two School Resource Officer/Deputies are assigned to each high school, and one was assigned to each middle school.

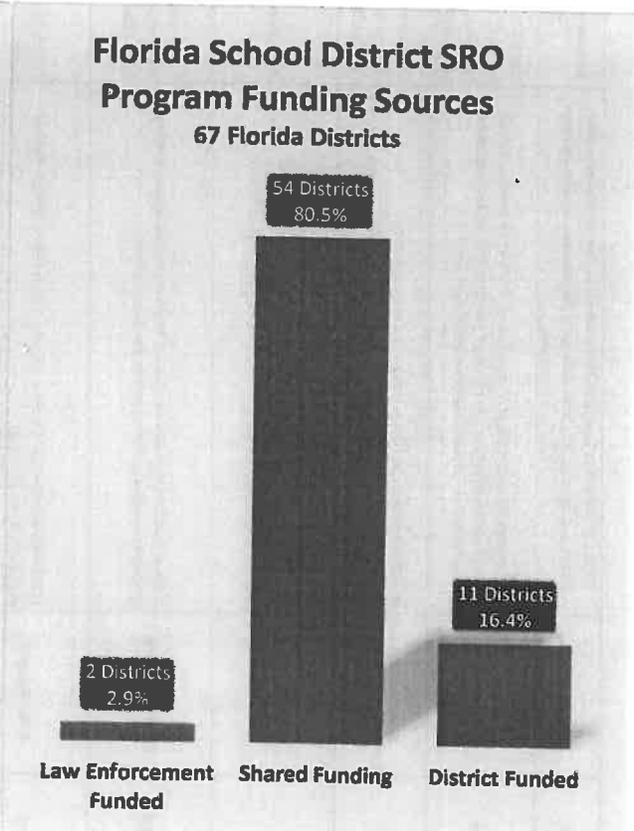
The program began to see a staffing reduction at the elementary school level in 2005, sustaining the most significant reduction in 2008 when the School Resource Officer/Deputy staffing assigned to elementary schools was reduced by 78%, leaving only two Deputies assigned to the program. In 2009 the program serving the elementary schools of Sarasota County was eliminated.

In the beginning, and for the most part today, funding for the program has been split 50/50 between the School District and the law enforcement agency providing the service. Budget reductions faced by both the school district and law enforcement agencies leave many officials with concerns that the program is at risk without sustainable funding. An effective partnership between schools districts and law enforcement agencies not only provides the youth of our community with a positive law enforcement relationship, it also improves critical infrastructure security and resilience to an essential asset of the community.

Distribution of costs locally



Distribution of costs state-wide



(Continued on back)