

Question 1

Will you explain the School Resource Training Hours Log? Is it a particular form? Where do the training hours take place?

The School Resource Training Hours Log is the documentation needed to show compliance with the MCOPS grant for CURRENT SROs. As the grant states, "All SROs must meet the minimum requirements for SROs outlined in the Mississippi Department of Education's Quick Reference to School Related Statutes and the School Resource Guide of 2017 and subsequent revisions." Forty hours of continuing education units are required each year per officer. The form is located on page 23 of the grant packet as Attachment 3. The training hours can be obtained at approved Law Enforcement and MDE trainings throughout the year.

Question 2

MCOPS 2017 Application utilizes Attachment 3 to document the School Resource Officers Training Hours Log. Can the law enforcement agency's training summary log be substituted for this form?

No. The form for training hours located on page 23 of the grant RFA is the form required for this application.

Question 3

Can these funds be used to pay for overtime for sporting events that are school related? Can funds be used to offset salaries for current officers?

The purpose of the MCOPS program is identified in Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 (1) as a grant program "to assist law enforcement agencies in providing additional School Resource Officers." (Emphasis added). Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 (2)(c) provides: MCOPS funds may be used to pay for entry-level salaries and benefits of newly trained additional School Resource Officers and may be used to pay the salaries and benefits of School Resource Officers employed prior to July 1, 2013. (Emphasis added). Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 (2)(b) states "The additional School Resource Officers must devote at least seventy-five percent (75%) of their time to work in and around primary and secondary schools, in addition to the time that School Resource Officers are devoting in the absence of MCOPS in Schools grant." Therefore, MCOPS funds may be used to fund "additional" School Resource Officers" that "devote at least seventy-five percent (75%) of their time to work in and around primary and secondary schools."

Question 4

Can we use this grant for security upgrades at our schools?

As found under the Grant Award Funding section of the MCOPS RFA, "MCOPS funds disbursed through this grant by MDE may be used for reimbursement of SRO salaries and benefits only. The

grant will not exceed \$10,000 per officer. The grantee must match at least \$10,000 in local funds or in-kind match which shall be used on equipment for the SRO(s) and/or safety equipment for the school upon which they are assigned." (Emphasis Added). This requirement allows for the in-kind match of \$10,000 to be used on safety equipment at the schools of which the SRO is assigned.

Question 5

If a school district is in a working collaborative with the County Sheriff's Dept. to provide SROs for the district, must the \$10,000 match required by MCOPs come directly from the school district, or since the school district and Sheriff's Dept. are teamed in the project, may either party provide the \$10,000 in matching funds and/or in-kind services?

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 (2)(c) provides "The MCOPS in Schools program shall provide a maximum state contribution of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per officer position over the one-year grant period, to be matched from local funds on a 50/50 matching basis." (Emphasis added). The statute only requires that the match come from "local funds."

Question 6

Does the grant allow funding to offset costs of current SROs?

In prior grant years, MDE has interpreted Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 to allow funds to be used to continue the support of current SROs. The MCOPS legislation went into effect July 1, 2013. As passed during the 2013 session of the Mississippi Legislature, Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 (2)(c) provides: "MCOPS funds may be used to pay for entry-level salaries and benefits of newly trained additional School Resource Officers and may be used to pay the salaries and benefits of School Resource Officers employed prior to July 1, 2013. (Emphasis added). The intent at the time of passage was to provide funds to "pay the salaries and benefits of School Resource Officers" that were already employed as SROs. The statute has never been amended. The MDE intends to continue to interpret the provisions of Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-82 to allow funding of existing SRO positions.

Question 7

Is there a fillable version of the grant?

No, there is not currently a fillable version of this grant.

Question 8

How many SROs are on this campus? How is the best way to answer this question? If we have two SROs between 5 campuses?

As per the instructions on page 22 for the MCOPS Individual Campus Threat Assessment, you would list the number of officers that work on that individual campus. In your scenario, you would indicate there are two SROs on this campus. You would then circle "yes" for the question: Are the SROs and SSOs shared between other campuses. You would then indicate "5" in the box that asks: How many campuses are shared.