



# Somerville Public Schools

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**To:** Somerville School Committee  
**From:** Amara Anosike, JD, Chief of Staff and Strategy, SPS  
**Date:** April 27, 2026  
**Re:** School Climate and Safety Memo

Somerville Public Schools (SPS) is initiating a process to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Somerville Police Department (SPD) regarding the potential placement of a School Resource Officer (SRO), at Somerville High School and Next Wave/Full Circle, consistent with districts across the Commonwealth and in neighboring communities. This process will be based on the Massachusetts [Model MOU](#) and is pursuant to G. L. c. 71, § 37P.

The MOU will define roles, responsibilities, training expectations, and coordination protocols between SPS and SPD. As schools navigate increasingly complex student needs, SPS is committed to ensuring our safety systems are clear, consistent and aligned with best practices. Engaging in a thoughtful process grounded in the Commonwealth's MOU, can strengthen our ability to support safe, inclusive learning environments.

Under Chapter 71, § 37P, the development and execution of the MOU fall under the authority of the Superintendent of Schools. As part of this process, SPS will engage students, staff, and families through focus groups in the months of May and June 2026, to gather feedback on key elements of the MOU, including the role of the SRO, expectations for school-based support. This engagement is intended to ensure that the MOU reflects safe, supportive, and equitable learning environments.

In addition to the development of the MOU, once it is complete, SPS is required to meet annual reporting obligations under G. L. c. 71, § 37P(d). No later than August 1 of each year, the district must report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and publicly present to the School Committee:

- The cost to the district of assigning a School Resource Officer
- A description of the proposed budget for mental, social, or emotional health support personnel
- The number of school-based arrests, citations, and court referrals from the previous year, disaggregated as required by DESE (for contextual reference, the data from Boston and Cambridge show 0 school-based arrests and citations from SY2022-SY2025).

SPS must also annually submit its finalized SRO MOU and accompanying operating procedures to DESE and report school-based arrest and referral data through the School Safety and Discipline Report (SSDR).

The Superintendents Office will keep the School Committee informed as this process progresses and will share updates as stakeholder engagement is completed and materials are developed.