

# Office of the Sheriff

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# Rusk County

Jeffery S. Wallace, Sheriff  
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To: Rusk County Citizens  
From: Sheriff Jeffery S. Wallace  
Date: March 27, 2018  
Subject: School Safety

When I took office in 2015, I stated the greatest concern I have is for the safety of the people of Rusk County and the deputies/officers that protect this county. One of my highest priorities is keeping our children and staff in the schools of Rusk County safe.

Recent tragedies involving unimaginable violence in our nation's schools have renewed questions about state and local policies intended to safeguard and protect our children. It is our responsibility to ensure our schools are safe and that students can learn free from the fear of violence.

I have met with the local school administrators, and the goal that we are working towards is to place a sworn School Resource Officer (SRO) in the schools throughout the school year. The ultimate goal is to protect the most valuable asset in the country, and that's our children. An SRO would obtain special training for working in schools to provide a layer of security both in the school and the perimeter of the school. SRO's build valuable, positive relationships with students, faculty and parents that often enable the SRO to obtain information on planned violent acts before they occur.

We have prepared a survey that we would request you go online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RuskCoSchoolSurvey> to complete. This survey is important because it will determine whether there's going to be funding available for school districts for security upgrades, and also to see where else we can put money to make sure students are safe in our schools. The data we collect will assist law enforcement and the local schools to identify common emergency preparedness gaps and areas to focus future planning, training, exercise and equipment initiatives.

The fact is, our society has changed. SRO's are more critical to what parents expect out of their schools and what we have to do to deliver a safe environment for kids to learn in.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. I ask that you please take this survey seriously and answer to the best of your ability. If you have any additional comments or concerns, please feel free to contact myself, or your local school administrator.

*If you are deaf and/or hard of hearing, call us through Wisconsin Relay at 711*

**Protect & Serve**