

1 **NYSAC 2021 Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Children with Special Needs**
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution in Support of a Statewide Program to Train School Resource**
5 **Officers in Addressing the Safety and Security of Children with Special**
6 **Needs**

7 **WHEREAS**, in the interest of inclusion, children with special needs are enrolled
8 in schools; and

9 **WHEREAS**, children with special needs may require more care than their typically
10 developing peers; and

11 **WHEREAS**, children with special needs who exhibit behavioral disturbances must be
12 handled with understanding, insight, and compassion; and

13 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of those children that School Resource Officers
14 (SROs) be well trained in addressing their special needs, so as to carefully protect the
15 safety and security, as well as the legal rights, of those vulnerable populations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the SRO training must be completed prior to an SRO being placed in a
17 school district and this provision shall take effect one year after enactment of this new
18 training program.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
20 Counties (NYSAC) calls for the creation of standardized, mandated training for SROs on
21 the developmental needs of those children, and their expressions of both visible and
22 invisible disabilities, and strategies to interact with children with special needs, in order
23 to nurture and guide children with special needs in the school setting; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSED in consultation with DCJS shall develop,
25 adapt, or implement a standardized, mandated training for SROs; and

26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the creation of a standardized, State mandated
27 training (regionally accessible in-person or virtual) that educates SROs on the
28 developmental needs as well as expressions of both visible and invisible disabilities in
29 order to nurture and guide children with special needs in the school setting is necessary;
30 and

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this initial training is completed prior to the start
32 of the officer interacting with the school population; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officer shall complete an annual refresher
34 training; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties
2 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that New York State Association of Counties shall
4 forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State
5 Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.