



**East Hampton Town Police Department
School Resource Officers**



The East Hampton Town Police Department has utilized School Resource Officers since the School Resource Officer program's inception in 2001. Sergeant Kenneth Alversa and Police Officer Devin Toia are the current School Resource Officers assigned to schools within the Town of East Hampton. Sgt Alversa and P.O. Toia's primary assignment is the East Hampton High School where they work closely with the nearly 1000 students and staff. In addition, these officers conduct presentations and work with the faculty of all public and private schools within the town when requested.

One of P.O. Toia's primary tasks is to assist with school safety and security. She has also taught classes including Criminal Law, Business Law, Health Sciences, Drivers Education, and Distracted Driving. There is an emphasis on drug and alcohol awareness in all of these classes.

Sgt. Alversa, acting in his capacity as an SRO, has also been involved in successful "Drug Take Back" events that collect unwanted and expired medications for safe disposal. These efforts help prevent prescription drug addiction.

The roles of School Resource Officers are always evolving, in part because of the fast paced world of social media and electronic smoking devices. This year was more challenging than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic with staff and students adapting to new remote learning scenarios.

School Resource Officers continue to not only be a resource for students, but for parents, teachers and administrators regarding safety and law issues within the school and community.