

# Bridging the Gap: Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities and School Resource Officers

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## Background

- Personal interest to learn more about youth populations
- Recent changes to laws, training requirements, and a surge of advocacy to ensure law enforcement are prepared to work with individuals with disabilities
- Between 65%-70% of youth involved with the criminal justice system have a disability (Coalition for Juvenile Justice, 2015)

## Exploration

- Informal interviews with teachers from Brighton High School to learn about their experiences in serving students with disabilities and any interactions with school resource officers

## Themes

- ADHD and Specific Learning Disabilities most prevalent
- Lack of training with how to effectively serve students with disabilities

## Resources

HB21-1122: First Responder Interactions Persons With Disabilities

ADA Compliance Training to Schools: <https://disabilitylawco.org>

Information for First Responders on Interacting with an Individual with Autism: <https://autismboulder.org/first-responders/>

The Wallet Card® Project – Helping People with Disabilities Communicate with First Responders: <https://www.justdigit.org/wallet-cards/>

## Advocacy

Autism and Police: A Book for Black and Brown Kids:

<https://viewer.joomag.com/autism-and-the-police-story-booklet/0586833001626128930>

A Parent Guide for Talking to Kids with Autism about Safety and the Police:

<https://viewer.joomag.com/autism-and-the-police-parent-resource-guide/0279140001626129293?short&>  
Colorado PTA

Colorado Talking Book Library

Denver Metro Community Parent Resource Center

Parent to Parent of Colorado

## Next Steps

All in all; while there are lots of resources, there is a clear lack of specific training when it comes to serving students with disabilities. There is clear access to education, but how are our students' disability considerations being protected by our community police and SROs?

