

KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

This guide is a list of action steps adapted from the <u>Everytown for Gun Safety Report</u>. It is intended for families and educators. Please see the full report for more action steps for decision-makers like superintendents, school board members, voters and elected officials.

Widely promote safe gun storage

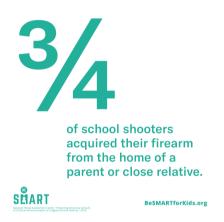
- 4.6 million children live in a home with a loaded and unlocked firearm
- Firearms used in school shootings are predominately acquired from the home of a parent or close relative (and usually not stored securely)
- Firearms is now the leading cause of death for children in the US. Securing guns safely can prevent:
 - Easy access for children to unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else (350 children each year in the US)
 - o Easy access for children and teens to die by gun suicide (more than 700 each year in the US)
- Keeping our children safe at school and at home requires widely sharing information on secure gun storage
- Ask about secured firearms when your children visit another home
- <u>Be Smart For Kids</u> AND the <u>NRA</u> have sharable information about safe gun storage. **While gun** reform may be a politically divisive issue, everyone can agree on how to keep kids safe.





Educate decision-makers

- Skip the teachers, principal and even superintendent and head right to the school board.
- Ask them to NEVER simulate active shooter situations. Research proves they're traumatic for students and teachers. These trainings often come from for-profit companies.
- An effective emergency plan in collaboration with local law enforcement is recommended
- The research is clear: arming teachers puts everyone at higher risk.
- Law enforcement in schools, like student resource officers (SROs), are NOT effective and can have a NEGATIVE impact (particularly with students of color)



Foster a trusting school environment

- Most school shooters are current or former students
- There are almost always warning signs. If students trust their educators, they're more likely to make a report when something feels unsafe
- Providing behavioral and mental health supports are crucial for the safety and wellbeing of our students. **Vote to fund these services! Ask the school board to add more!**

Advocate for legislative change

There are many state and nation wide initiatives to support, including:

- Background checks on ALL gun sales
- Raising the age to purchase semi-automatic firearms
- Passing extreme risk laws
- Enacting and enforcing secure firearm storage laws
- Voting for funding in schools, especially mental health services

Resources for your family:

Be Smart For Kids

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America



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