



# KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

## REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

*This guide is a list of action steps adapted from the [Everytown for Gun Safety Report](#). 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)
  - 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
- [Be Smart For Kids](#) AND the [NRA](#) 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.**



<b>Secure</b> all guns in your home and vehicles	<b>Model</b> responsible behavior around guns	<b>Ask</b> about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes	<b>Recognize</b> the role of guns in suicide	<b>Tell</b> your peers to be SMART
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For more information on what you can do to keep kids safe, visit  
**BeSmartForKids.org**

## 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)

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BeSMARTforKids.org

## 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:

[Everytown for Gun Safety Report on How To Stop School Shootings](#)

[Be Smart For Kids](#)

[Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America](#)



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