

4 PART GUIDE TO KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

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

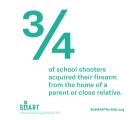
- 4.6 million children live in a home with a loaded and unlocked firearm
- Firearms used in school shootings are predominately acquired from the home of a parent or close relative (and usually not stored securely)
- Firearms is now the leading cause of death for children in the US. Securing guns safely can prevent:
 - $\circ~$ 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
- <u>Be Smart For Kids</u> is a great resource for schools and families



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

Everytown for Gun Safety Report: How to Stop Shootings and Gun Violence in Schools Be Smart For Kids: Safe Gun Storage Everytown for Gun Safety Report: The Impact of Active Shooter Drills in Schools EdSurge: Do Active Shooter Drills in Schools Do More Harm Than Good?

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