



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Position on School Safety

State policymakers must prioritize school safety by passing legislation such as universal background checks and red flag laws to reduce gun violence and by providing resources to school districts and community-based programs to meet the mental health needs of students.

AMSD BELIEVES

- A safe and welcoming learning and work environment is an essential characteristic of an effective school.
- Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence is the joint responsibility of educators, parents, law enforcement, community leaders, and state policymakers.
- School districts must be given the resources needed to provide safe learning environments for students and staff.
- It is critical to reduce stigma and increase knowledge of mental health problems and ensure access to high quality mental health treatment.

BACKGROUND

- An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm.
- Evidence shows that secure firearm storage is an essential component to keep schools and students safe.
- Every year roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else and another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member.
- In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends.

References:

[The Violence Project: How To Stop A Mass Shooting Epidemic](#) by Jillian Peterson, PhD and James Densley, PhD