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Can Technology make schools safer?

URL: [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/RB9922.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9922.html)

This website can help do pitches to the different school districts!!!!!!! Great information.

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## Bulletproofing America Jan 2017

URL: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/01/bulletproofing/508754/>

So-called security robots already patrol parking lots and shopping centers in California, like dehumidifier-shaped mall cops. The Knightscope K5, for instance, uses sensors and high-definition cameras to monitor a GPS-defined area, scanning for people who don't belong there. The company behind the robot is hoping to develop gun-detection software that will let it recognize firearms and alert authorities if one is spotted. One day, such robots might even be able to stop a gunman on their own. A weapon-equipped robot might track down a shooter using visual sensors and data gathered via a ShotSpotter-like system. After locating the gunman, it could fire at him—or, perhaps, incapacitate him with nonlethal force.

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## **Schools turn to technology to reduce toll during shootings**

**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Url:**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/kids-health/schools-turn-technology-reduce-toll-during-shootings-n1006416>

“If I’m intent on shooting people at a school, there are 20 ways to do it,” said Erik Endress, CEO of Share911, a New Jersey-based company with an app that allows staff to immediately report to colleagues and police everything from medical conditions to active shooters.

“We can improve the outcome of these situations,” Endress said. “We can minimize the casualty count.”

“We’ve kind of reached this state of frustration where we (feel like we) can’t protect our students,” said Dennis Kenney, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “What we’re trying to do is find some technological fix, and there isn’t one.”

In the fall, the district will add a central command center that will monitor feeds from all the district’s surveillance cameras and use software to monitor keywords in online search traffic for potential threats.

Chicago-based Aegis AI is refining technology to identify a gun as soon as it enters an area that a camera is scanning. The company was incorporated a year ago and still is working to minimize false alarms, such as when the software flags a staple gun or drill, CEO Sonny Tai said. Most of its clients are in a pilot program.

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## **Schools are spending billions on high-tech security. But are students any safer? May 20, 2018**

## URI:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/schools-are-spending-billions-high-tech-security-are-students-any-n875611>

That was among the concerns raised in [a 2015 RAND study on the growing use of school-safety technology](#). Researchers surveyed a variety of school districts and encountered officials “in desperate need of more evidence on what works.” Some of the products — visitor management systems, anonymous tip lines — were relatively simple, inexpensive and sensible, the researchers said. But they also found scant evidence of most high-tech tools’ effectiveness, and some of the technology might make students feel as if they were under siege, the researchers said.

“I walked away thinking that what districts needed was an independent third party to wade through the marketing from the different companies,” RAND policy researcher Heather Schwartz said. “But my impression was that was not going to happen soon.”

After the December 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, the [National Institute of Justice](#) made school safety research a priority, doling out tens of millions of dollars each year to projects that sought to understand school violence and how to stop it. Much of that work has not yet been completed.

And now the funding source appears to be drying up. A federal spending bill passed in March [eliminated the NIJ grant programs](#). Instead, after the Feb. 14 massacre in Parkland Congress [passed the STOP School Violence Act](#). It redirected federal funding toward anti-violence training, installation of metal detectors, anonymous tip lines and better mental-health services, rather than research into technology-based solutions.

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## Schools turn to apps, other tech to guard against shootings May 17, 2019

### URL:

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/2019/05/16/us-school-shootings-security-technology/>

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Schools trying to protect kids from mass shootings are turning to gunshot detection systems, cellphone apps and artificial intelligence — a high-tech approach designed to reduce the number of victims.

Technology that speeds up law enforcement's response and quickly alerts teachers and students to danger is a growing tool amid rising concerns over the inability to prevent shootings like the one last week at a suburban Denver high school. An 18-year-old student who rushed one of the gunmen died.

While a focus on gun control often emerges after school shootings, technology can be a less partisan solution that's quick to implement — though some experts say funding preventive mental health resources should be the priority.

"We've kind of reached this state of frustration where we (feel like we) can't protect our students," said Dennis Kenney, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "What we're trying to do is find some technological fix, and there isn't one."

Districts nationwide are recognizing that and instituting an approach that combines technology with mental health programs, bullying prevention and security officers.

"If I'm intent on shooting people at a school, there are 20 ways to do it," said Erik Endress, CEO of Share911, a New Jersey-based company with an app that allows staff to immediately report to colleagues and police everything from medical conditions to active shooters.

"We can improve the outcome of these situations," Endress said. "We can minimize the casualty count."

While school attacks are relatively rare, they have been among the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history.

The 1999 massacre of 13 people at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, ushered in a new era of school security but the carnage continued, including 27 people killed in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and 17 deaths last year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Joseph Erardi, a retired Newtown superintendent who came to the district a year after the shooting, said lawmakers pressed for "hardening" infrastructure at schools.

That has spurred a billion-dollar industry where companies manufacture products from "ballistic attack-resistant" doors to smoke cannons. The hardening market, as well as lobbying efforts to get taxpayer dollars to fund upgrades, had stalled in recent years but rekindled after the Parkland shooting.

Now many schools, like the Beverly Hills Unified School District, are combining that kind of hardware with more high-tech solutions and therapeutic programs.

"That's like the Number 1 concept of security for any principal: physical security and emotional security of children," said Juliet Fine, principal at Horace Mann School, which serves kindergarten through eighth grade.

Beverly Hills is among 200 U.S. school districts using the Share911 app. The board of education added it and other measures, including armed security officers, following the Parkland shooting.

In the fall, the district will add a central command center that will monitor feeds from all the district's surveillance cameras and use software to monitor keywords in online search traffic for potential threats.

"Safety in schools is evolving. Technology and software, like in all aspects of the modern world, need to be utilized and used," said Christopher Hertz, district director of school safety. "We want our kids to feel and be safe. ... If we do all this, then our teachers can do what they need to do."

Wealthier areas have not been immune to violence. Horace Mann parents and teachers stressed that they and students feel safe within the walled campus, and not just because it's in an exclusive area.

"I'm grateful I live in this community that has so much security, and I know they are protected," Evelyn Lahiji, 42, said as she picked up her sons, Lorenzo Naghdechi, 8, and Leonardo Naghdechi, 9.

Christina Richner, 45, said her 6-year-old son, Julian, and 9-year-old daughter, Olivia, have gone through so many emergency drills that "their reflexes will kick in" during a shooting.

The students are trained to gather in a corner with the classroom's lights out and blinds drawn in a lockdown, social studies teacher Laura Stark said. Staffers check in via the Share911 app to share information, including if any kids are missing or injured.

Share911 launched three weeks after the Sandy Hook shooting. The app provides real-time data to school employees and law enforcement, such as the type of threat and its location, based on floor plans of the building.

"You can't decide if you're going to run, hide or fight in the absence of information," said Endress, the CEO.

AmberBox, an indoor gunshot detection product that looks like a smoke detector, has a similar philosophy. It alerts school officials and law enforcement the moment a shot is fired and maps the location.

The system uses sensors that track a gun's muzzle flash and a bullet's shockwave, CEO James Popper said.

Chicago-based Aegis AI is refining technology to identify a gun as soon as it enters an area that a camera is scanning. The company was incorporated a year ago and still is working to minimize false alarms, such as when the software flags a staple gun or drill, CEO Sonny Tai said. Most of its clients are in a pilot program.

Some experts are concerned that districts are embracing technology to allay public concern while taking money away from mental health programs and violence-prevention efforts.

"It's something you can show. I can go to a board meeting and hold up this shiny thing," said Amy Klinger, co-founder of The Educator's School Safety Network and a former teacher and school administrator in Ohio.

Despite the advances in both safety technology and mental health programs, experts say there's no foolproof way to predict or stop a shooting. Wealthy, suburban districts like Beverly Hills that can afford the latest innovations face as much risk as inner-city schools where metal detectors have been commonplace for years.

"Nobody ever thinks it's going to happen there," Endress said. "Well, it's happening everywhere."

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## Global Gunshot Detection System Market 2019-2024 - Increased Use of Gunshot Detection Systems by Law Enforcement Agencies in North America Spur Market Growth



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NEWS PROVIDED BY

**Research and Markets**

Apr 26, 2019, 18:00 ET

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DUBLIN, April 26, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- The ["Gunshot Detection System Market by Application \(Commercial, Defense\), Installation \(Fixed Installations, Vehicle Installations, Soldier Mounted\), System \(Indoor, Outdoor\), Solution \(Systems, SaaS\) and Region - Global Forecast to 2024"](#) report has been added to **ResearchAndMarkets.com's** offering.

The Gunshot Detection System (GDS) market size is expected to grow from USD 564 million in 2019 to USD 1,008 million by 2024, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.3% during the forecast period.

The gunshot detection system market is driven by several factors, such as increased rates of homicide deaths from gunfire in North America and increasing demand for gunshot detection systems in militaries for threat detection and identification is another factor driving the gunshot detection system market. The cost of installation of gunshot detection systems is very high and maintaining these systems is an additional expense for governments.

Key players offering gunshot detection systems for commercial applications include Shot Spotter Inc. (US) Shooter Detection Systems LLC (US), and Tracer Technologies Inc. (US). Key players offering gunshot detection systems for the defense sector are Raytheon BBN Technologies (US), QinetiQ North America (US), Acoem Group (France), Thales Group (France), Rafael Advanced Systems Ltd. (Israel), and Elta Systems Ltd. (Israel), among others.

***Vehicle installations segment is estimated to account for the largest share of the gunshot detection system market in 2019***

Based on installation, the vehicle installations segment is estimated to account for the largest share of the gunshot detection system market in 2019. The growth in the vehicle installations segment is owing to the upgradation of existing armored vehicle fleets. The increasing delivery of new armored vehicles is also leading to the increasing demand for armored vehicles. Increasing soldier modernization programs

are also contributing to the demand for overall GDS.

***Increasing demand for vehicle-mounted, soldier mounted, and drone mounted gunshot detection systems is expected to drive the market for the outdoor segment***

Based on system, the outdoor segment is estimated to account for the largest share of the gunshot detection system market in 2019. High demand for vehicle-mounted and soldier mounted gunshot detection system is expected to drive this market.

***North America is expected to lead the gunshot detection system market during the forecast period***

North America has the highest firearms possession to population ratio across the world. The US in the region accounts for the largest civilian gunfire deaths. Need for better surveillance and safety systems from gunfire in cities are the prime drivers for gunshot detection systems in the region. Defense applications use Gunshot locator systems, which have greatly improved situational awareness and combat preparedness for military units. They have led to decrease in combat casualties in hostile environments from enemy fire.

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- 1.2 Market Definition
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- 1.4 Currency & Pricing
- 1.5 Distribution Channel Participants
- 1.6 Market Stakeholders

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## The Technology Schools Are Using to Keep Students Safe from Shootings

<http://fortune.com/2018/08/20/schools-students-technology-safety-shootings/>

By [CARSON KESSLER](#)

August 20, 2018

Today marks the start of a new school year for many students around the country. Alongside the anticipation of class schedules and forays into [Office Depot](#) for back-to-school supplies, this 2018-2019 school year brings with it the weight of a year plagued by [school shootings](#) and marked by demands for stricter gun control legislation from [teenaged school shooting survivors](#).

To date, [2018 has seen 25 school shootings](#).

As parents send their children to school, they're likely met with a pang of fear; the unpredictability of the next school massacre is unsettling. A [recent poll](#) found 34% of parents fear for their child's physical safety at school—almost triple the number of parents from 2013.

Schools across the country are trying to settle the nerves of parents, students, and employees alike by introducing new safety protocols and preventative technology. From high-tech pepper spray to panic buttons, administrators aren't leaving any safety measure untested.

Here are a few of the schools and districts implementing innovative safety measures this year to keep their students safe.

### **Columbiana School District, Ohio**

One aspect of the Ohio district's multi-faceted approach to increase safety measures this year is gaining national attention. The Threat Extinguisher—a non-lethal defense system—piqued the interest of the district a few months ago.

Threat Extinguisher is an Ohio-based company that provides tactical pepper spray canisters that look like fire extinguishers. When removed from their base, the extinguisher immediately sends out an emergency alert to authorities and school staff, as well as students and even parents.

The alert provides the location of the activated Threat Extinguisher to ensure that responders know where the threat is located and to alert others to stay away.

Threat Extinguishers will be located throughout the school district in glass cases, portable bases, as well as individual lanyards worn by school staff and students.

### **Branson School District, Missouri**

Branson, Mo. campuses will see some entry process changes this year. A new buzzer system provides more security by screening each visitor before entry.

Paired with a new live camera system, the safety measure allows for school staff to control who comes in and who goes out. In addition, the district is partnering with the City of Branson to place police officers on every campus, not just the middle and high schools.

"It's not always common to put SROs on an elementary campus but I think that's again going to the day in time in which we live," Branson Schools Superintendent Dr. Brad Swofford told KY3.

### **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Florida**

Students who arrived for their first school year since a gunman opened fire and killed 17 people on Valentine's Day were met with a beefed up security system including guards, locks, and 52 new security cameras.

Now, there is only one entrance for visitors who are all screened via a video intercom system. As for staff and students, they must wear ID's to pass through fences and gates surveyed by security specialists.

But the changes don't stop there. All classroom doors have been fitted with new hardware that automatically locks when doors are pulled shut. Previously, the doors required relocking from the outside.

### **Santa Fe District, New Mexico**

After May's deadly mass shooting, the district has implemented several changes and programs for the new school year, including panic buttons in every classroom.

With a press of a button, help is on the way. Officials say the will allow responders to make better use of their resources.

"911 and school officials can have instant access to information like what building that call is coming from, GPS location who's making the call what the emergency type is," Todd Miller with Rave Mobile Safety told KRQE.

Additionally, each entrance of the school will be staffed with officers and metal detectors and all students and staff will be required to wear ID badges at all time.

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## **These 4 products say everything about America's gun problem**

<https://www.vox.com/2018/7/31/17514216/gun-violence-school-shootings-safety-products-gun-control>

**Bullet-resistant shields for classrooms shouldn't be an easier sell than gun control.**

By [Alexia Fernández Campbell@AlexiaCampbellalexia@vox.com](mailto:AlexiaFernandezCampbell@AlexiaCampbellalexia@vox.com) Jul 31, 2018, 8:40am EDT

RENO, Nevada —

Laser Shot. Door Shield. PepperBall. Vendors hawked their safety products to school cops at a casino resort in Nevada this month during the [National School Safety Conference](#). The exhibit hall was packed, with dozens of businesses selling high-tech answers — and some low-tech options — to the question on many people’s minds: How do we prepare for a mass shooting at our school?

One seller insisted that the answer is a bullet-resistant blanket nailed to classroom doors. Another vendor said schools should arm teachers with flashlights that shoot pellets of pepper spray. A chatty ex-cop said his bullet-resistant backpacks will shield children from the bullets of an AR-15.

Public schools across the country are under pressure to do something — anything — to make sure they don’t end up in the news as the latest site of a mass shooting. The February mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, [which killed 17 people](#), has reminded parents and school officials that it’s no longer quite so rare for a teenager to gun down his classmates, and that it could happen at any school in America.

Republican leaders have once again ignored the most obvious solution — stricter federal gun laws — just as they did after Columbine and Sandy Hook. Instead, [Congress is giving millions](#) of dollars to public schools to come up with any other solution, whether that means hiring more school cops, fortifying school buildings, hiring school psychologists, or organizing school shooting drills.

The sudden influx of money is one reason the exhibit hall at the school safety conference was packed this year. A record number of businesses and nonprofits rented booths at the Peppermill Hotel Resort and Casino, according to the National Association of School Resource Officers, which hosts the annual conference. Private security companies showcased many products you would expect to see at a school safety conference, such as security cameras and metal detectors. But a striking number of vendors were selling unconventional, even bizarre, solutions to protect school children from a shooter. Here’s a sampling.

**Door Shield: the bullet-resistant classroom blanket**

“You want to see something cool?” asked Georg Olsen, of US Armor, from his booth in the conference exhibit hall. The California-based company is best known for making body armor for police officers, but that’s not what Olsen wanted to show me. He gestured toward what looked like an oversized, canvas picnic blanket that was rolled up and bolted to a wooden panel.

With one hard tug on a red strap, the blanket unfurled to the floor. But it wasn’t a blanket at all. It’s something called Door Shield, Olsen explained, and he had it made just in time for the school safety conference. It’s essentially a panel of “soft armor” — used as cover by police SWAT teams when they raid buildings and exchange gunfire. Olsen nailed the shield to a wooden board, where it can be rolled up and mounted above a classroom door. If a shooter breaks into a school, teachers can lock the door, and with one hard tug on the canvas strap, the bullet-resistant panel rolls down and covers the door.

“Even a child can operate this,” Olsen said. He admitted that soft armor was designed to stop the bullet of a semi-automatic pistol, not an assault-style rifle like the one used in the Parkland shooting. Even so, he said, a thick classroom door and the Door Shield together would definitely stop the bullet of a long rifle.

I pointed out that the \$1,995 price tag would make it expensive for schools to buy one for each classroom. Olsen wasn’t fazed. “It’s cost versus value,” he said. “The cost of [Door Shield] versus the value of a life.”

**PepperBall LifeLite Launcher: the flashlight that shoots pepper bullets**

The two sales guys at the PepperBall booth said they had a solution for schools that don’t want teachers to carry guns: weapons that shoot pepper bullets. Their company specializes in ammunition designed to be non-lethal, like the PepperBall guns they normally sell to police officers. The guns shoot bullets filled with pepper spray, or pellets that can break glass in case of an emergency.

For teachers who are intimidated by the pepper guns, the company has another product, Erik Leslie, VP of sales for the company, said. It’s called the LifeLite PepperBall Launcher.

Leslie showed the launcher to me, and it looked just like a heavy duty flashlight, which it is. But then he pushed a lever on the side, exposing a hidden red trigger (he prefers to call it a “button”). A laser beam shot out

to mark the target. Then Leslie walked over to a makeshift target and pressed down on the trigger five times, which made a loud popping sound as each PepperBall bullet shot out. The bullets, about the size of a marble, were filled with talcum powder — just for training purposes.

In real life, or in the event that a teacher comes face to face with a shooter, the bullets would be filled with Pava, a chemical compound that irritates the eyes and constricts the throat.

“The bad guy will be too busy coughing to keep shooting,” Leslie said. Then he let me try it:

It took a few tries to figure out the right amount of pressure to activate the trigger, but it was otherwise easy to shoot. Teachers might want training before using the launcher, Leslie said.

The PepperBall launcher, which sells for \$299, wasn’t made with teachers in mind. The company originally marketed the product to truck drivers, campers, and other civilians who wanted to protect themselves without carrying a gun. But sales of the LifeLite weren’t great, Leslie said. Then the Parkland shooting happened, and schools started talking about giving teachers guns to protect their students — a highly controversial idea. Leslie thought the flashlight launcher struck the right balance between giving teachers guns and giving them nothing.

#### RELATED

[\*I went to a huge conference on school safety. No one wanted to talk about gun control.\*](#)

Obviously, the product is no match for a person with an AR-15 rifle.

Leslie agreed. “This is not going to take down a bad guy, all it will do is buy a teacher some time until the cops can get there.”

#### The bullet-resistant backpack

Ron Weaver is a former LAPD cop, and he was super excited about showing me his line of bullet-resistant backpacks and laptop bags. He swears none of the other bullet-resistant backpacks on the market are as lightweight as his, or shield a larger area of person’s body from a spray of bullets.

“Here’s a backpack that will save your life,” said Weaver, picking up one of the models he was showcasing at the conference.

Weaver showed me the two slim polyurethane plates nestled in each bag. Then he pointed to the bumps on the plates from the AR-15 bullets he shot them up with. “It didn’t go through,” he said.

Weaver owns Eastern Beacon Industries, a company that makes tactical gear and accessories for civilians. He began in January selling his ballistic backpacks and laptop cases, which run from \$500 to \$800 each, to urban professionals who feared getting caught in the middle of a gunfight.

After Parkland, however, Weaver said he began getting a lot more interest from parents. They wanted to know if he made backpacks for kids. Not yet. Weaver is designing a line of colorful backpacks for teens and kids, which he plans to have on the market in September.

“I never intended to sell these to children,” he said.

Weaver gave me a quick demo to show how fast he could unzip the backpack to release the two plates of body armor:

#### Laser Shot: the training “video game” for school cops

One booth in the exhibit hall was always crowded with school police officers and administrators. At first, it seemed like they were playing video games on a huge projector screen. They weren’t.

The booth belonged to Laser Shot, a company that makes virtual shooting simulations to train police officers. With a fake gun that resembles a Glock-17, police officers can practice target shooting to react to a variety of scenarios: a home hostage situation, a bank robbery, a mall shooting. More recently, Laser Shot added school shootings to the library, including one in which a teenage boy terrorizes a high school with a semi-automatic rifle.

A salesperson for Laser Shot showed a school administrator how to hold the fake pistol to test out the school shooting scenario. She was curious if the program would help train school cops in her state of Alabama.

Students appeared on screen and began screaming; some hid behind tables in what looked like a high school library. Then the shooter popped up from behind a table and pointed his gun at Marilyn Lewis, who was testing

out the program. She shot him twice and missed. Then she shot him in the chest. He fell to the floor. Everyone at the booth applauded.

Read [Vox's coverage](#) of the National School Safety conference to find out what schools are doing (and what lawmakers are not doing) about mass shootings at US schools.

IN THIS STORYSTREAM

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[Santa Fe, Texas, high school shooting: multiple students killed](#)

- [I've covered gun violence for years. The solutions aren't a big mystery.](#)
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- [I went to a huge conference on school safety. No one wanted to talk about gun control.](#)

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## **Technology may not stop a school shooting from happening, but it can still help**

<https://edscoop.com/school-safety-security-role-of-technology-in-school-shootings/>

Written by [Emily Tate](#)

JUN 8, 2018 | EDSCOOP

As the national conversation [intensifies](#) over what schools can and should do to reduce the risks of mass shootings, educational institutions are finding some answers in a trend they embraced years ago.

Many school districts, having long accepted the presence of hardware and software in their buildings, are now exploring applications that promise to protect against what has become every educator's worst nightmare: an active shooter on school grounds.

At a time when "Parkland" and "Santa Fe" connote not just the names of towns but the settings of tragedies, most schools have some safety-related technology in place — typically low-tech equipment such as surveillance cameras, PA systems and metal detectors. But in the same way they received more pervasive and sophisticated learning technology, they also are looking at high-tech systems to increase security, such as mobile apps that allow real-time head counts during emergency situations, facial recognition technology that identifies individuals who have been placed on a school's "blacklist" and tools that recognize and alert officials to exposed guns.

Some school districts, like Lockport City School District, located outside of Buffalo, New York, are looking into more comprehensive systems that include facial recognition, weapons detection and back-end forensic tools. Others, like Wa-Nee Community Schools in rural Indiana, are rolling out an advanced communications platform being tested by a variety of districts, including the Connecticut one overseeing Sandy Hook Elementary School, a site that has come to symbolize how tragedy can strike at any moment.

"It's been interesting to see the transitions taking place," said Ron Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, a California-based nonprofit that assists schools with safety planning and violence prevention. "Technology certainly does have a role in school crime prevention, as well as in school crisis management, but it's really up to [the school districts] how much they embrace the technology."

At the same time, many school districts, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina, are grappling with how to deploy technologies across huge, far-flung jurisdictions.

“There’s lots of things I’d like to do, lots of technology I’d like to try, but everything is done with scale in mind — we’re a big district,” Derek Root, Charlotte-Mecklenburg’s chief technology officer, said about the district’s safety plan.

With so much advanced technology available, there’s no question it has a place in deterring school shootings and responding to incidents, educators and experts interviewed for this story told EdScoop. It’s also generally apolitical, operating outside the broader debate over gun safety. The question, then, is exactly what place the technology has, and how much it’s worth to already budget-strapped school districts.

### **Equipping every school district — even the small ones**

With each passing school shooting — and they occur [about once a week](#) in the U.S. — fear among students, teachers and staff grows, said Amy Rosa, director of transportation and school safety at Wa-Nee Community Schools, a district in northern Indiana with about 3,000 students. So, too, does the feeling that their school could be next.

“I don’t believe that any school should look in the mirror and say, ‘It’s never going to happen here.’ That’s a dangerous place to be,” Rosa said.

So Wa-Nee staff, determined not to be defenseless in the face of an attack, sought out a safety preparedness plan. And although they didn’t go looking for a solution involving technology, that’s what fit.

“We know just because we’re a small rural community that anything could happen and to prepare for all hazards that could come along,” Rosa added. “Obviously there’s bad people out there that plan to do harm, and if they intend to do harm on our schools we want to be prepared.”

### [\*See more on student safety and security in this EdScoop Special Report\*](#)

Wa-Nee has just five schools — one high school, one middle school and three elementary schools. Some are as far as 10 miles apart and in two separate towns, but all share a single school resource officer.

“The distance is an issue,” Rosa said. “Any technology we can have to increase communication and bridge that gap — we have looked for that kind of opportunity.”

When Rosa and other school administrators began to consider what it would actually be like for Wa-Nee to go on lockdown, to evacuate the student body and to reunite students with their parents after an emergency, they realized they were not prepared.

“How does the data go with them? If we are in a lockdown situation, sometimes those can last a very long time,” she said. “How do we communicate in the classrooms or wherever students and faculty would be? How do we communicate with them? How do they communicate with us? How do they take attendance?”

### **Compressing response time**

At first, Wa-Nee officials set up an email address for that very purpose: [safety@wanee.org](mailto:safety@wanee.org). In the event of an emergency, staff were instructed to send a message to that address saying who they are, where they are and who is with them.

Then Wa-Nee’s school resource officer heard about a company, [Raptor Technologies](#), that had just launched an [emergency management system](#) that seemed to check all the boxes on what Wa-Nee needed. They quickly signed on with the company.

Raptor’s emergency management system integrates with Wa-Nee’s student information system and updates automatically. Then, through any internet-connected device, including the company’s mobile

app, school staff are able to access class rosters, students' emergency contacts, building maps, incident-specific emergency plans and — during a crisis — students' location and status.

The idea is that during a school shooting — or another emergency, such as a gas leak or a natural disaster — teachers will become aware of the incident immediately.

"The response time is critical — teachers get alerted right away," Eileen Shihadeh, senior vice president at Raptor, said. "No shooter has ever made it through a locked classroom door. The most important thing is for teachers to know they're under lockdown right away — lights out, out of sight."

From there, teachers can open the mobile app and account for the students in their care, marking who they're with and whether anyone has been injured or needs medical attention.

"Sometimes schools are on lockdown for hours. Often neighboring schools are put in lockdown as well," Shihadeh said. According to Raptors' research, during that lockdown time, "these mobile devices are being pulled out. Some people are videotaping. When you're huddled in a room and feeling kind of powerless, this is what you go to."

Then, when the time comes to reunite students with families, administrators know exactly which students were with which staff members, as well as which family members and guardians have permission to pick up students and sign them out.

"An event doesn't happen at 9 a.m. in home room. It could happen at lunch, at recess. You could have 20 kids with you that aren't your kids, you just grabbed them and ran to the science room," Rosa said. "Raptor allows you to account for yourself, your status, your location, anyone you have with you. That's all happening live through the app."

Rosa believes Wa-Nee's school resource officer provides a service and a value that no technology could ever replace, but on the other hand, she said, some technologies provide a level of protection and efficiency that humans cannot.

"Technology can't solve every problem — we have to have people involved — but technology certainly can help," she said.

Of the districts using Raptor's emergency management system, which became available in 2017, none have experienced an active shooter incident, Shihadeh said. Several, however, have had emergency evacuations (due to gas leaks or otherwise) that required use of the mobile app and system.

Connecticut's Newtown Public Schools, which oversees Sandy Hook Elementary School, is currently in the process of implementing Raptor's emergency management system, according to Shihadeh. Sandy Hook experienced one of the worst school shootings in U.S. history in December 2012, resulting in the deaths of 20 children and six teachers, along with the shooter and his mother, who was a teacher at the school.

Raptor Technologies has a presence in more than 20,000 schools across 3,100 districts nationwide, including Santa Fe Independent School District.

Santa Fe uses Raptor's visitor management system — a point the Texas district's superintendent [emphasized](#) in a reminder about security procedures sent out in the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people in February. A few months after that reminder was sent, in May, 10 people at Santa Fe High School were killed by a fellow student. Officials from the district declined to comment for this story, but Raptor confirmed that Santa Fe does not use the company's emergency response technology, only the visitor screening.

### **The guinea pig for a new safety system**

Lockport City School District, located outside of Buffalo, New York, will soon be the [first school district](#) in the world to try out a new comprehensive safety and security system from Ontario-based SN Technologies. The technology resembles that which you might find in an airport or at some government facilities.

The three-part [Aegis system](#) includes a facial recognition tool, a weapons detection tool and a forensic search engine.

The [facial recognition component](#), which SN Tech calls “Sentry,” alerts school staff to any unwanted individuals on school property when those individuals’ faces come into view of one of the 300 high-resolution digital cameras on Lockport’s premises. The list includes registered sex offenders and anyone with a violent criminal conviction, but it may also extend to students who have been suspended or expelled, employees who have been fired, parents who have lost custody or anyone else who may pose a threat and whose photo has been programmed into the system.

School districts elsewhere, like in [Missouri](#) and [Arkansas](#), are trying out similar facial recognition technology.

Tony Olivo, a security consultant for SN Tech who specializes in school risk assessment and mitigation, acknowledged that the Sentry tool is not foolproof and will not catch every potentially dangerous individual. However, in the case of the shooter who killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland on Feb. 14, it might have helped, he said. The Parkland shooter, Nikolas Cruz, was a 19-year-old former student who had been expelled from the school.

“The minute he walked into that school building, our alert would’ve identified him as a potential threat,” Olivo said. “Maybe the 30 seconds it took him to walk in and get to the second or third level of the building would’ve mitigated the tragedy.”

SN Tech’s “Protector” technology is a [shape recognition tool](#) that can identify any of the 10 most common weapons used in school shootings and alert school and/or law enforcement officials when it gets a positive match. The weapons in the database — revolvers, assault rifles, shotguns and semi-automatic weapons, to name a few — include the types that were used in the school shootings at Sandy Hook, Parkland and Santa Fe.

Though the Aegis system can spot unwanted visitors or weapons in hand, it is not the final judge, Olivo said. “The system is the traffic cop to get it to a human element and then they would take the appropriate action. The system merely identifies a threat.”

The third and final tool in the package, called “Mercury,” allows school officials to search video and digital images to locate specific individuals almost instantly. It expedites the existing process officials use for combing through hours or even days of videos to find a single 20- or 30-second clip. “This can be done in moments once the videos are uploaded to the system,” Olivo said.

The Mercury system will not upload and analyze every student’s and staff member’s face — only those suspected of doing something wrong — nor is it meant to be used to chastise every person who takes an extra 15 minutes on their lunch break, Olivo said.

“There should be no misconception that this is a ‘Big Brother’ system. It’s a forensic system that enhances what schools are already doing manually,” he said.

In the case of Lockport, which is using its [Smart Schools funds](#) from the state to ramp up security, video footage will only be stored for up to 60 days.

Olivo wouldn't say how much Lockport is paying to have all 10 of its district buildings outfitted with Aegis software this summer. But reports estimate the district is spending somewhere between [\\$1.4 million](#) and [\\$2.75 million](#) of its \$4 million Smart Schools grant from New York.

Referring back to the example of Cruz, Olivo said all three Aegis tools could have been helpful for school and local government officials at Parkland.

"With this technology, we would've locked in on him, followed him everywhere, followed him out of the building. It's going to be a system where, if a kid carries a sawed-off shotgun in a hockey bag, is it going to stop that? No. But it's part of the overall security package," he said. "No one tool is 100 percent going to solve all the problems. I think that these tools – and again, they're tools – are part of the overall risk management, threat assessment management and risk mitigation [for schools]."

"It just has to save one life to be worth it," he added.

While Lockport is the only district that has officially signed on with the Aegis software, more are "in the pipeline," Olivo said. Other districts in New York, as well as some in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Virginia, have expressed interest in the technology.

### **A piecemeal approach to safety technologies**

Though it has not invested in a comprehensive package the way Lockport and Wa-Nee have, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools — one of the largest districts in the country — uses a diversity of technologies in its safety plan.

Like most districts — especially large, urban ones — the North Carolina district has cameras set up in the hallways and outside the buildings of all of its schools. But unlike most districts, the camera system at Charlotte-Mecklenburg has been fully integrated with the local police department, according to Root, the district's CTO.

District officials just have to "flip a switch" to give law enforcement access to their cameras, he said.

This fall, one pilot school in the district will expand its camera system into classrooms.

These cameras will have dual functions. Like the ones in the hallways, the cameras will record high-definition footage that feeds back into the district security system. But they'll also have a function that gives teachers control of camera access. If a fight breaks out in class, for example, the teacher can press a button on their badge or lanyard that, when held down for three seconds, begins to record the scene in the classroom. The recording ends when the teacher presses the button again. They can press another button to request help.

Root said he didn't see any privacy concerns with the pilot because teachers will have ownership over when the cameras are recording. They've even heard from other districts that some educators use the classroom cameras as a learning tool; they record themselves and later listen back for ways to improve.

If that pilot shows positive results, the district will quickly move it into other schools, Root said.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg also monitors the posts, emails and pictures students send on G Suite, its cloud and collaboration platform. That's still primarily a manual process for staff, but Root said the IT department is looking at ways to automate it.

He's also considering monitoring students' social media for words that may raise alarms. "The school-age students now are very vocal on social media," he said. "And there are some great technology tools out there for [filtering through] that."

At a previous district, Root used Social Sentinel to tune into students' social media spheres. It allows school staff to track where combinations of words like "school" and "gun" or "school" and "bomb" come up.

The district has also deployed a system that allows front-desk employees to lock and unlock the front doors of school buildings from their desk phones. It's already in place in nearly all of their high schools and will soon expand to middle schools, too.

Root said Charlotte-Mecklenburg, which uses a visitor screening system from a company called [LobbyGuard](#), has looked into facial recognition technology similar to what SN Tech offers and researched its applications in school safety and security. At least for now, he said, he didn't think that was the best fit for his district because "logistically, it seems pretty tough to manage."

But he's continuing to keep his eye on new technologies for safety and security as they are developed and rolled out.

"All of this is driven by funding for us," Root said. In the near-term, the district will actually be increasing the number of staff on its police force and doing more staff training for active shooter scenarios. In light of recent events, he said, "it feels more necessary."

### **Weighing the costs and benefits**

Although all of these tools and apps could have additional utility in schools — Raptor's system could be deployed during a natural disaster, for example, or Charlotte-Mecklenburg teachers could use the in-class cameras to improve their instructional techniques — experts say the core decision is really about whether the price tag makes sense relative to the risk of a shooting happening in any given district.

Jeffrey Sprague, director of the Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior at the University of Oregon, is more cautious about the role technology should play in protecting students and staff. Sprague's view is that tech certainly could aid in a school shooting, but that it may not be a practical investment for school districts when the equipment is costly and, all things considered, it's extremely rare for any given school to experience a shooting — the probability is "about once every 12,000 years," he said.

The number of students and school staff who die each year in a school-associated violent crime has remained fairly stable over time, Sprague said. Over the last 25 years, about [35 to 50 violent deaths](#) have occurred in schools annually, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

"It's totally unacceptable to lose even a single life," he said. "And my values would suggest yes, if the technology is available we should adopt it and use it. ... But one of the challenges is whether one will invest in a technology to prevent against something that has a very low likelihood of happening in your school. Do we want to make our schools like an airport?"

And even if schools do go the way of airports — as Lockport is planning to do this fall — it won't be a failsafe for school shootings.

"If somebody wants to do it, and they actually get to the school site, they're gonna do some damage before they're stopped," Sprague added. "I know parents don't want to hear that — I'm a parent myself — but ... that's just a depressing reality."

Stephens, director of the National School Safety Center, agreed that no matter what technology is in place — from metal detectors and bullet-resistant doors to facial recognition technology and visitor alert systems — "that still is not going to prevent a committed shooter from coming on campus."

The technology can only go so far in prevention. It really comes into play, they said, during an active shooter incident. In such an event, systems that alert school and law enforcement officials of a crisis could shorten emergency response times and reduce the number of victims. Still, though, that assumes a district is willing to put up big bucks to address a situation that remains highly unlikely.

“If people want to invest in the technology, invest carefully,” Sprague said. “And understand that you’re not going to eliminate the risk, but you might mitigate it.”

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## **SafeSchools by Vector Solutions - Active Shooter**

<https://www.safeschools.com/hot-topics/active-shooter/>

**K-12 Safety is Complicated - we make it simpler**

The SafeSchools suite of safety and compliance programs was created by [Vector Solutions](#), a leader in eLearning and performance support. Vector Solutions provides award-winning SaaS solutions for the education, architecture, engineering, construction (AEC), industrial, facilities management, public safety, and IT industries. Our education-specific brands for the K-12 and Higher Education markets include SafeSchools, [SafeColleges](#), [Exceptional Child](#), and [TeachPoint](#).

We know that education budgets can sometimes be tight, so our annual subscription-based SafeSchools programs are affordable and easy to use and implement. We want you to be successful with our programs, so our dedicated Client Success Team will help you every step of the way. We’re proud to have a **95% customer satisfaction rate** because of their outstanding service. [Contact us](#) to learn more about our K-12 solutions or browse around our site. We look forward to helping you make your district an even safer place to work and learn.

The screenshot shows a dark blue website interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with white text: '> K-12 SAFETY SUITE OVERVIEW', '> STAFF TRAINING SYSTEM', '> INCIDENT TRACKING SYSTEM', '> SDS & CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM', and '> TIP REPORTING SYSTEM'. To the right of the menu is a main content area. At the top of this area is a white icon of a clipboard with a checkmark. Below the icon is the heading 'Simplify Safety & Compliance' in white. The text below reads: 'Our award-winning suite of K-12 safety and compliance programs includes solutions for staff training, incident tracking, SDS management and tip reporting.' Below this text is the phrase 'Affordable, Easy to Use, Trusted by Thousands' in white. At the bottom of this section is a bright green button with the white text 'LEARN MORE'.

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## **SCHOOL SHOOTER PSA**

<https://www.careersafeonline.com/school-safety-active-shooter-psa>

SCHOOL SHOOTER PSA: [https://youtu.be/mkT\\_skNII20](https://youtu.be/mkT_skNII20)

### **CareerSafe® School Shooter Safety Simulation Video [4:43]**

DISCLAIMER: The video is a dramatization of an active shooter event and intended to provoke thought only. It should not be used as a means for response.

In keeping with our focus on providing Safety Education for America's Future, CareerSafe has created this school safety video to provoke thought, discussion, and action as it relates to preparing and practicing school response plans.

**Key Questions:** Does your school have a plan? Would you know what to do? Where to go? What to avoid? Have you practiced your plan with your local emergency responders?

### **GOVERNMENT RESOURCES**

[Department of Homeland Security | Active Shooter Preparedness](#)

[Department of Homeland Security | Active Shooter Booklet](#)  
[Federal Emergency Management Agency | Campus Ready](#)  
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Youth Violence Data Sheet](#)  
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Emergency Response Resources](#)  
[Department of Labor | How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations](#)  
[Department of Justice | ALERRT - Active Shooter Training](#)  
[Federal Bureau of Investigation | Addressing the Problem of the Active Shooter](#)  
[Federal Bureau of Investigation | Revisiting Active-Shooter Protocols for Schools](#)  
[Department of Education | Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#)

#### STATE RESOURCES

[State of New Jersey Department of Education | Active Shooter Safety Considerations for Educators](#)  
[The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training \(ALERRT\) Center at Texas State University](#)  
[City of Houston, Texas | Run Hide Fight Surviving an Active Shooter](#)

#### CONTACT

For additional questions or comments please contact [schoolsafety@careersafeonline.com](mailto:schoolsafety@careersafeonline.com)

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## **Ready.gov - Active Shooter**

<https://www.ready.gov/active-shooter>

This page describes what to do if you find yourself in an active shooting event, how to recognize signs of potential violence around you, and what to expect after an active shooting takes place. Remember during an active shooting to RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.

#### **Be Informed**

- Sign up for an active shooter training.
- If you see something, say something to an authority right away.
- Sign up to receive local emergency alerts and register your work and personal contact information with any work sponsored alert system.
- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.

#### **Make a Plan**

- Make a plan with your family, and ensure everyone knows what they would do, if confronted with an active shooter.
- Look for the two nearest exits anywhere you go, and have an escape path in mind & identify places you could hide.
- Understand the plans for individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs.

#### **During**

##### **RUN and escape, if possible.**

- Getting away from the shooter or shooters is the top priority.
- Leave your belongings behind and get away.
- Help others escape, if possible, but evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Warn and prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Call 911 when you are safe, and describe shooter, location, and weapons.

##### **HIDE, if escape is not possible.**

- Get out of the shooter's view and stay very quiet.
- Silence all electronic devices and make sure they won't vibrate.
- Lock and block doors, close blinds, and turn off lights.
- Don't hide in groups- spread out along walls or hide separately to make it more difficult for the shooter.

- Try to communicate with police silently. Use text message or social media to tag your location, or put a sign in a window.
- Stay in place until law enforcement gives you the all clear.
- Your hiding place should be out of the shooter's view and provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.

#### **FIGHT as an absolute last resort.**

- Commit to your actions and act as aggressively as possible against the shooter.
- Recruit others to ambush the shooter with makeshift weapons like chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, books, etc.
- Be prepared to cause severe or lethal injury to the shooter.
- Throw items and improvise weapons to distract and disarm the shooter.

#### **After**

- Keep hands visible and empty.
- Know that law enforcement's first task is to end the incident, and they may have to pass injured along the way.
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, and/or handguns and may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation.
- Officers will shout commands and may push individuals to the ground for their safety.
- Follow law enforcement instructions and evacuate in the direction they come from, unless otherwise instructed.
- Take care of yourself first, and then you may be able to help the wounded before first responders arrive.
- If the injured are in immediate danger, help get them to safety.
- While you wait for first responder to arrive, provide first aid. Apply direct pressure to wounded areas and use tourniquets if you have been trained to do so.
- Turn wounded people onto their sides if they are unconscious and keep them warm.
- Consider seeking professional help for you and your family to cope with the long-term effects of the trauma.

#### **Associated Content**

- [\*\*RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.® Surviving an Active Shooter Event - English\*\*](#) (video)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Information Sheet \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Booklet \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Pamphlet \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Poster \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Poster \(Spanish\) \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Pocket Card \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Pocket Card \(Spanish\) \(PDF\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Planning and Response to an Active Shooter: An Interagency Security Committee Policy and Best Practices Guide\*\*](#) (PDF)
- [\*\*FEMA's Independent Study course: What you can do\*\*](#) (link)
- [\*\*Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Preparedness\*\*](#) (link)
- [\*\*Active Shooter Training provided by Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers \(FLETC\)\*\*](#) (link)
- [\*\*Conducting Security Assessments: A Guide for Schools and Houses of Worship Webinar\*\*](#) (link)
- [\*\*Ready Navy active shooter\*\*](#)(link)



# **Federal Commission on School Safety Report to the President**

## **Background**

### **Decades of Problems**

On February 14, 2018, a former student walked into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, and began firing. He murdered 17 people, and wounded many more.

Three months later, a shooter at Santa Fe High School in Texas murdered 10 people. These successive school shootings are two tragedies on a ledger that now spans decades.

School violence has been a persistent problem in the United States. For example, on January 29, 1979, a 16-year-old opened fire on Grover Cleveland Elementary School in San Diego, CA. She killed two adults and wounded eight students and one police officer, for seemingly no reason at all.

In each decade since, we have experienced tragedies of this kind. In the 1980s, communities across the country suffered from school killings—in Alabama and Nevada, in Missouri and Kansas, in Washington, North Carolina, Michigan, and Virginia.

The incidents continued during the 1990s. The decade culminated in a shooting in Littleton, CO—now known as the Columbine High School Massacre. On April 20, 1999, two shooters killed 13 fellow students and wounded 21 before taking their own lives. Virginia Tech came eight years later, with the death toll at 32. At Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012, a shooter claimed 26 lives.

These are not just numbers. These are lives that were tragically cut short.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The efforts of the Federal Commission on School Safety have been guided by the need to promote state and local solutions to school violence. To that end, the Commission conducted field visits, listening sessions, and meetings with hundreds of Americans all across the country. The input of these individuals—state and local policymakers, administrators, principals and teachers, law enforcement and healthcare professionals, students and their families—was critical in identifying best practices and the recommendations contained in this Report.

As set forth in the pages that follow, the work of the Commission falls into three broad categories:

- a) Prevent—preventing school violence;
- b) Protect and Mitigate—protecting students and teachers and mitigating the effects of violence; and
- c) Respond and Recover—responding to and recovering from attacks.

The Commission's work is summarized below.

### **Prevent**

**Character education and creation of a positive school climate:** Character education and a positive school climate can help students feel connected to, rather than isolated from, teachers and fellow students. They can also help combat cyberbullying, an area where states, districts, and schools are developing and evaluating promising new approaches. Student-led efforts are critical to addressing cyberbullying. Firm and prompt responses to cyberbullying by staff are necessary as well as having suitable systems for the reporting of incidents.

**Mental health:** Improving access to school-based mental health and counseling for young people is an important aspect of prevention. So, too, is community involvement and support, including the faith community. Prescribing psychotropic medications for complex mental health needs should only be part of a broader treatment plan.

Integrating mental health, substance misuse, and other supportive services into school and pediatric settings can help early identification of needs and access to treatment. Testimony and information gathered from Commission listening sessions, site visits, and meetings noted a lack of school-based or easily accessible mental health

professionals. Telephonic and telepsychiatry consultations have the potential to dramatically expand and enhance care.

**Threat assessment:** Beyond the school building and campus, informed and alert communities play a critical role in keeping our schools safe. Prior to most attacks, other students had concerns about the attacker, yet most did not report what they knew to a parent or other responsible adult. Outreach campaigns such as “If You See Something, Say Something®” and similar state-specific programs are essential to encouraging and facilitating the reporting of suspicious activities or other concerning behaviors. There are significant opportunities to customize or expand such efforts.

Suspicious activity reporting programs must incorporate appropriate privacy protections to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). However, confusion remains in some localities about whether and when student records can legally be shared during a health or safety emergency. Reducing this confusion can lead to greater compliance and appropriate reporting of threats to the safety of students and schools.

**Press coverage:** For optimal engagement with the media after a school safety incident, state and local authorities should develop a media plan as part of their broader crisis preparedness, response, and recovery plan. The “No Notoriety Campaign” (i.e., not using shooters’ names or photos, but instead focusing on facts and victims) is a policy that media outlets and communities across the country should consider.

**Violent entertainment and rating systems:** The role of the family is central to controlling violent entertainment. State and local educational agencies should collaborate with parents to strengthen internet safety measures to curb access to inappropriate content. In addition, the entertainment industry should ensure its rating systems provide parents with the full complement of information needed to make informed decisions about entertainment for their children.

**School discipline:** Maintaining order in the classroom is a key to keeping schools safe. Teachers are best positioned to identify and address disorderly conduct. However, guidance issued by the prior Administration advocated a federal solution that undercut the ability of local officials to address the impact of disciplinary matters on school safety. The guidance also relies on a dubious reading of federal law. The guidance should be rescinded and information about resources and best practices for improving school climate and learning outcomes should be developed for schools and school districts.

**Law enforcement:** The available research does not support the conclusion that age restrictions for firearms purchases are effective in reducing homicides, suicides, or unintentional deaths. Most school shooters obtain their weapons from family members or friends rather than by purchasing them. States should consider offering training or other resources to promote safe storage of firearms.

Other recommendations include encouraging states to adopt laws permitting “extreme risk protection orders” (ERPOs), which can prevent individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others from possessing or purchasing firearms. The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Public Access Line—a critical component of the FBI’s efforts to keep Americans safe—has undergone changes to improve the process for receiving and evaluating tips from the public.

## **Protect and Mitigate**

**Training:** All school personnel play a role in school safety and should take part in school safety training. Those best positioned to respond to acts of violence are those with specialized training such as school resource officers (SROs) who are generally sworn law enforcement officers. With respect to training and other related aspects of school safety, states and local policies and approaches should reflect their own unique circumstances and needs.

When a school shooting occurs, law enforcement officers are the ones who rush to the scene, neutralize the shooter, assist victims, and secure the site. The federal government provides a wide array of emergency and crisis training resources to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to help prevent, plan for, and respond to such incidents.

**Troops to Teachers:** Military veterans and retired law enforcement officers often possess the leadership, experience, and essential training to help ensure the safety and security of our nation’s schools. As the Troops to

Teachers program attests, veterans and retired law enforcement officers can also serve as highly effective educators where there are reduced barriers to certification and appropriate incentives are in place.

**Building and campus security:** Every school in America is different, and the appropriate protective measures will vary based on the characteristics of the site, location, resources, and personnel available. A risk assessment can identify vulnerabilities and enable the development of a strategy to address any security gaps.

Effective security plans use a layered approach across all three areas of a school: entry points, the building envelope (e.g., walls, roofs, windows, doors), and the classroom. An effective security plan can be especially valuable in rural areas, where law enforcement response times may be significantly longer than in more urban jurisdictions.

## Respond and Recover

**Active shooter preparedness:** Reports prepared in the aftermath of school shootings have universally recognized the value of preparing for a potential active shooter incident through training, planning, and related strategies. According to some reports, total casualties could have been higher in Parkland, FL, had the school not provided active shooter preparedness training to staff (the latest training coming just six weeks before the shooting incident).

### *A Tragic Chronology*

The following list of school violence incidents is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to illustrate the breadth of the problem.

**January 29, 1979** Grover Cleveland Elementary School in San Diego, CA—two adults killed, eight students and one police officer wounded

**October 31, 1980** Hueytown High School in Hueytown, AL—one student wounded, shooter takes his own life

**March 19, 1982** Valley High School in Las Vegas, NV—one teacher killed, two students wounded

**January 20, 1983** Parkway South Junior High in St. Louis, MO—one student killed, one wounded, shooter takes his own life

**January 21, 1985** Goddard Junior High School in Goddard, KS—school principal killed, two teachers and one student wounded

**November 27, 1985** Spanaway Junior High School in Spanaway, WA—two students killed, shooter takes her own life

**May 9, 1986** Pine Forest High School in Fayetteville, NC—three students wounded, one critically

**April 17, 1987** Murray Wright High School in Detroit, MI—one student killed, two wounded

**December 16, 1988** Atlantic Shores Christian School in Virginia Beach, VA—two teachers shot, one fatally

**January 17, 1989** Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, CA—five students killed, 29 others wounded, shooter takes his own life

**February 2, 1996** Frontier Middle School in Moses Lake, WA—one teacher and two students killed, another student wounded

**October 1, 1997** Pearl High School in Pearl, MS—shooter kills his mother then kills two classmates and injures seven others

**December 1, 1997** Heath High School in West Paducah, KY—three students killed and five others wounded

**March 24, 1998** Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, AR—four students and one teacher killed, 11 others wounded

**20, 1999** Columbine High School in Littleton, CO—13 students killed and 21 wounded, shooters take their own lives

**March 25, 2001** Santana High School in Santee, CA—two students killed and 13 wounded

**December 5, 2001** Springfield High School in Springfield, MA—school counselor killed

**April 14, 2003** John McDonogh Senior High School in New Orleans, LA—one student killed and three wounded

**September 24, 2003** Rocori High School in Cold Spring, MN—two students killed

**March 21, 2005** Red Lake High School in Red Lake, MN—after killing his grandparents, shooter kills five students, a teacher, and an unarmed security guard

**April 16, 2007** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA—shooter kills 32 people, takes his own life

**February 27, 2012** Chardon High School in Chardon, OH—three students killed and two wounded

**December 14, 2012** Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, CT—shooter kills his mother, 20 students, and six adults before taking his own life

**October 21, 2013** Sparks Middle School in Sparks, NV—shooter kills a teacher, wounds two classmates, and takes his own life

**December 13, 2013** Arapahoe High School in Centennial, CO—one student killed, shooter takes his own life

**May 27, 2014** University of California Santa Barbara, CA—six students killed, 14 wounded, shooter takes his own life

**June 10, 2014** Reynolds High School in Troutdale, OR—one student killed, one teacher wounded, shooter takes his own life

**October 24, 2014** Marysville-Pilchuck High School in Marysville, WA—four students killed and a fifth critically wounded

**April 10, 2017** North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino, CA—one teacher and one student killed, one student wounded, shooter takes his own life

**January 23, 2018** Marshall County High School in Benton, KY—two students killed, 18 other people wounded

**February 14, 2018** Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL—14 students and three teachers killed

**May 18, 2018** Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, TX—eight students and two teachers killed, 10 others wounded

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## Non-Profits Fighting Against Gun Violence – Present Company

<https://blog.present.co/non-profits-fighting-against-gun-violence-61331eedb8eb>

Mar 1, 2018

Written by Shinjini Das

The students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida have planned the upcoming [#MarchForOurLives](#) and [#NationalSchoolWalkout](#) movements to act on [#GunReformNow](#). There are also several non-profits which are actively engaged in combatting gun violence and working towards reducing the rate of gun violence here in the United States of America. *Join [Present](#) to connect with other anti-gun violence activists passionate about creating sustainable change in your cities and beyond!*

Here are eight national non-profits fighting against gun violence: we hope that you support their efforts, donate to championing their cause, and join us in the [Present](#) app to continue the dialogue with thousands of other passionate, engaged civic citizens who want change now

## Everytown for Gun Safety

[Everytown](#) is a movement of Americans working together to end gun violence and build safer communities. Today more than 4 million mayors, moms, cops, teachers, survivors, gun owners, and everyday Americans have joined together to make their own communities safer. This change will save lives. The symbolism behind the name, [Everytown](#), is that it starts with you, it starts with us, it starts in every town.

## Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Created to demand action from legislators, state, and federal; companies; and educational institutions to establish common-sense gun reforms, [Moms Demand Action](#) for Gun Sense in America is bringing together a group of mothers who are passionate about decreasing the instances of gun violence in the United States. Founded by stay-at-home mom [Shannon Watts](#) on December 15, 2012, in response to the devastating shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the organization has grown into a formidable force of gun violence prevention in the country with chapters in all 50 states and a grassroots network of moms which has successfully created change at all levels.

## Americans for Responsible Solutions

[Americans are 25 times more](#) likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed nations. [95%](#) of Americans support requiring a background check for all gun sales, 93 Americans are killed with guns every day, and 94% of all gun owners believe in background checks for gun sales. Amidst great opposition, this non-profit has helped pass more than 200 new strong gun laws in 45 states and in Washington, D.C. Help this non-profit fight more gun violence by advocating.

## Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Both the [Coalition to Stop Gun Violence \(CSGV\)](#) and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFGV) are two parts of a national non-profit gun control advocacy organization meant to combat gun violence. Since 1974, this non-profit has overseen a decrease in American gun violence via legislation and education. In fact, the [CSGV](#) has been monumental in developing, drafting, passing, and enacting the Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) policy enabling family members and or law enforcement officials to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from individuals in crisis.

## The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

The mission of the [Brady organization and its Million Mom March](#) is to create a safer America by cutting gun deaths in half by 2025. Currently, the non-profit is focused on urging everyone to call upon Congress to immediately pass legislation which would make it significantly more difficult for deadly weapons to be used by dangerous people.

## Violence Policy Center

A national educational organization committed to a safer America via research, investigation, analysis, and advocacy, the [Violence Policy Center](#) provides valuable information to policymakers, journalists, organizations, advocates, and the public. Some most recent topics of discussions are centered around investigating the gun lobby, understanding the impacts of gun violence, regulating the gun industry, and deconstructing the use of guns for self-defense purposes.

## Women Against Gun Violence

With a critical mission, [Women Against Gun Violence](#) has worked for 23 years on legislation, awareness, and education programs to continue to keep women and children safe from gun violence. In addition, the organization has been a part of several meaningful [California legislative milestones](#) by partnering with several legislators, community, and activist groups to create and enact some of the most stringent gun laws in the United States of America. And it continues to do so.



## Sandy Hook Promise

Over 2 million people have made the [Sandy Hook promise](#) and made the promise to do all they can to protect children from gun violence by encouraging and supporting solutions that create safer, healthier homes, schools, and communities. The approach is to build a national movement of parents, schools, and community organizations which are engaged and empowered to deliver gun violence prevention programs to mobilize for the passage of sensible state and national policy.

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## Gun Violence Prevention - Kendeda Fund

<https://kendedafund.org/our-programs/gun-violence-prevention/>

**VISION:** *We want all Americans to be safe from gun violence. The first step is to create the conditions for productive discussions around this issue, one where common sense prevails and those with divergent viewpoints can find new ways to collaborate and move forward around common goals.*

Gun violence is one of the most challenging public health and equity issues in American society. The gun lobby has spent decades building a powerful, vocal constituency of gun owners and manufacturers, leading to political sclerosis, inaction and delay among elected officials. But we see tremendous potential for common sense reform in a diverse set of stakeholders and supporters with new perspectives on gun violence and the harm it causes in communities nationwide.

Kendeda's Gun Violence Prevention program seeks to unite unexpected partners around replicable strategies for long-term change, building on creative community-led efforts to find new, productive pathways toward a less violent society. We want to test new violence prevention strategies and convene critical community conversations in order to promote behavior change and advance policy reform. We want to invest in storytelling that moves beyond tragedy reporting and other traditional frames to focus instead on points of agreement, creative solutions, and models of progress. And we want to support emerging leaders and new voices working at the intersection of gun violence prevention, criminal justice reform, racial equity, and poverty.

### GRANTS

The Kendeda Fund invests in a combination of local and national strategies to prevent gun violence. There is no single solution for reducing the scourge of gun violence in America, and lasting change will take time, collaboration, and compromise.

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## Fund for a Safe Future

<https://www.fundforasafefuture.org/>

### Who We Are

FSF pools resources to invest in targeted, practical, strategies to reduce gun injuries and deaths.

FSF plays a strategic role in the gun violence prevention movement. We are a funder collaborative that helps reduce gun violence in the United States by supporting rational, evidence-based policies at the local, state and federal levels. We invest in organizations, research institutions, and advocates to strengthen policies that reduce the toll of gun violence, and we engage new donors in the movement. FSF currently includes 20 foundation and individual donors and has made more than \$7M in grants to reduce gun violence since 2011.

## Our Structure

FSF is managed by an Advisory Committee made up of member representatives. Together, the Advisory Committee pursues a strategy that includes support for effective movement building, policy-relevant research projects, well-timed state advocacy campaigns, data-driven communications work, and the development of innovative legal strategies that support the movement.

## What We Fund

FSF supports advocacy, research, education, and community based organizing in order to reduce gun injuries and deaths. The following is a selection of FSF's grantees. Click the links below to learn more about the work some of our partners are doing. Fund for a Safer Future does not accept unsolicited requests for funding.

### What They Do

The Fund for a Safer Future (FSF) plays a strategic role in the gun violence prevention movement, pooling resources from multiple foundations and private donors to invest in targeted, practical, strategies to reduce gun injuries and deaths. FSF supports rational, evidence-based policies at the local, state and federal levels, and invests in organizations, research institutions, and advocates working to reduce the toll of gun violence across the United States. FSF currently includes 14 foundation and individual donors and has made more than \$6M in grants to reduce gun violence since 2011.

### What We Love

As a donor collaborative, FSF is in a unique position to steer and influence the philanthropic sector's coordinated approach to gun violence prevention. Partners in the Fund have a unique opportunity to share strategies, learn from one another, and pool resources for collective impact. FSF is growing steadily as the public's attitudes toward gun violence shift, and the organization is likely to have a significant voice in the gun violence conversation for some time to come.

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## Billionaire Couple Promises \$20 Million To Fund Gun Violence Research

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/luisakroll/2018/06/01/billionaire-couple-promises-20-million-to-fund-gun-violence-research/>

8,908 views Jun 1, 2018, 07:00am

[Luisa Kroll](#)

Forbes Staff

Speaking at the Forbes 400 Summit on Philanthropy on Wednesday, philanthropist Laura Arnold announced plans to spend \$20 million over the next five years to fund gun violence research. She and her husband's foundation would look to raise an additional \$30 million, bringing funding up to \$50 million for a grant project called the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research.

"Ninety-six people are killed by guns in the U.S. every day. More people have been killed in schools than in military deployment so far in 2018," Arnold said. "While I was writing my remarks for today, 40 miles away from Houston another school shooting started."

She pointed out that one of the students at the school in Santa Fe, Texas, said in an interview that she was not surprised by the shooting because she thought it would eventually happen at her school. "I don't want to live in a country where children worry about the whether they will be shot at school," Arnold said. "It's a critical time for philanthropy to step in and catalyze the government to act. To cut through the politics with data."

Part of the problem is that there has indeed been so little research on gun violence. "After every mass shooting there was talk of policy changes, but the discussions were not rooted in evidence," she

later explained. In 1996 Congress passed an amendment that was interpreted as a ban on gun violence research, so no government-funded research on the topic has been conducted since. As part of a spending bill earlier this year, Congress said that the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention could conduct research on gun violence, but Congress failed to allocate the CDC money to do so.

The Arnolds plan to set up an advisory board to evaluate proposals from researchers and dispense funds over the next five years. The board will oversee the grant project and agree on which questions to field. The RAND Corp., a nonpartisan public policy institute, will then handle the day-to-day operations. Some areas likely to be studied include how guns are purchased, how changes in gun ownership occur, and the risks and benefits to having guns in the house. "The kinds of questions asked are certainly meant to guide policy," Arnold said.

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## **Arnold Foundation Commits \$20 Million for Gun Violence Research**

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<https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/arnold-foundation-commits-20-million-for-gun-violence-research>

JUNE 4, 2018

The [Laura and John Arnold Foundation](#) has announced a \$20 million commitment in support of a data-driven research effort focused on gun-related violence in the United States.

The funds will launch and support the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research, which over the next five years will sponsor research on the causes and patterns of gun violence with the goal of helping policy makers craft evidence-based policies designed to reduce it. To be overseen by [RAND Corporation](#), the collaborative's research agenda will focus on the characteristics of gun violence, including how guns are purchased, how they change hands, and how they are used in fatal and non-fatal cases; risks and protective factors that increase or reduce the probability of gun violence; and interventions that can, among other things, effectively prevent violence-prone people from accessing guns or reduce gun violence in high-crime areas by improving the physical environment.

LJAF will work to secure an additional \$30 million from other funders in support of the effort, with the goal of catalyzing much-needed funding from the federal government in support of additional research.

"Unfortunately, government research has been stymied for more than two decades, and that gap hasn't been adequately addressed by the private sector," said Jeremy Travis, executive vice president of criminal justice at LJAF. "As with other public health challenges, the crisis of gun violence will be effectively addressed only if we produce high-quality, objective research. We believe that funding this research will save lives."

"Understandably, gun violence is a deeply emotional issue. But arguing about the proper response will not solve the problem. Our goal is to provide objective information to guide a rational, fact-based response to a national crisis," said LJAF co-chair [Laura Arnold](#). "We need data, not politics or emotion, to drive our decisions."

*"[Research Collaborative Formed to Study Gun Violence.](#)" Laura and John Arnold Foundation Press Release 05/31/2018. "[RAND Selected to Help Oversee National Effort to Increase Funding for Research on Gun Violence.](#)" RAND Corporation Press Release 05/31/2018.*

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## **Gun Violence Prevention – Children's Defense Fund**

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/gun-violence-prevention/>

### **The Problem**

Children in America are under assault. In 2017, 3,410 children and teens died from guns—enough to fill 170 classrooms of 20 children. A child or teen was killed with a gun every 2 hours and 48 minutes. More children under five were killed by guns than law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Gun violence saturates our children's lives and remains the second leading cause of death for all children and teens ages 1-19. Children are learning there is no safe space in America. We can do better. 3,410 children and teens were killed with a gun in 2017.

### **Our Vision**

All children in America should be guaranteed the right to live, learn and grow up safely—free from violence and fear. CDF envisions a nation in which children and teens feel safe in their communities and classrooms and leaders at all levels protect children not guns.

### **The Solution**

We work to demand elected officials protect children not guns by advocating for common sense gun safety and gun violence prevention measures. To ensure all children a safe start and future, we must:

**Fund Gun Violence Prevention Research:** To tackle the gun violence epidemic in America, citizens need information not guns. We must repeal the Dickey Amendment banning federally-supported research on gun violence and its causes.

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## **PhilanTopic | PND | Foundation Center: Gun Violence**

<https://pndblog.typepad.com/pndblog/gun-violence/>

### **Weekend Link Roundup (August 4-5, 2018)**

**AUGUST 05, 2018**

*Our weekly roundup of noteworthy items from and about the social sector. For more links to great content, follow us on Twitter at @pndblog....*

#### **Communications/Marketing**

It's a little late, but we just wanted to give a shoutout to Social Velocity's Nell Edgington and her [new website](#). Congrats, Nell — it looks great!

#### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

What does it mean for funders to build power? And how can they incorporate a power-building frame to measure meaningful progress on their DEI efforts? On the NCRP blog, Caitlin Duffy, senior associate for learning and engagement at the organization, [shares](#) the insights of four leaders in the sector — Daniel Lee, Alejandra L. Ibanez, Rhiannon Rossi, and Elizabeth Tan — who recently participated in an NCRP-sponsored webinar on the topic.

As she prepared to depart the Meyer Memorial Trust after more than a decade, Director of Programs Candy Solovjovs sat down with Kimberly Wilson, the trust's director of communications, to talk about the [evolution of its grantmaking](#).

#### **Fundraising**

News that some dictionaries have started to include an additional definition for the word *literally* has language purists and the word police up in arms. To which Fundraising Now's Jeff Brooks [says](#): Like, get over it. "[L]anguage changes. And that's a good thing. Even though it means an old 'rule' gets revised now and then."

In [part two](#) of a two-part series on board fundraising for the GuideStar blog, fundraising consultant Clare Axelrad looks at the different types of stories your board members can tell and/or elicit from the prospects they approach for gifts.

#### **Grantmaking**

A [recent survey of the field](#) by PEAK Grantmaking reveals that too few funders who collect demographic data on their grantees can articulate how they plan to use that information. On the Center for Effective Philanthropy blog, Michelle Greanias, PEAK's executive director, shares some [recommendations](#) for funders and nonprofits looking to ensure they are collecting and learning from demographic data in ways that will help increase the effectiveness of their work.

### It's Time to Invest in Youth Leaders

MAY 16, 2018

In the months since the tragic mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, the response of youth activists has captured the attention of the nation. What has largely gone unnoticed, however, is that across the country a dynamic youth-organizing field has emerged. Over the past twenty years, groups — many of them led by low-income young people of color — have been organizing to improve education, end the school-to-prison pipeline, protect immigrant rights, and address other critical issues.

New research demonstrates that not only does youth organizing result in concrete policy changes, it also promotes positive academic, social/emotional, and civic engagement outcomes. Yet despite recent investment in youth organizing from funders like the [Ford Foundation](#) and the [California Endowment](#), overall funding remains modest. That's unfortunate, because even as a new generation demonstrates its willingness to take on some of our toughest issues, the need for investment in the leadership of young people, especially those most impacted by injustice, has never been more important.

According to the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing's [National Youth Organizing Landscape Map](#), there are more than two hundred youth organizing groups across the country, the majority of them focused on middle and high school students of color. These groups support the development of young leaders and organize campaigns to address inequity in their communities. In Los Angeles, [Inner City Struggle](#) and [Community Coalition](#) led the campaign to ensure a rigorous college preparatory curriculum for all students. Groups such as [Communities United](#) in Chicago, [Padres y Jovenes Unidos](#) in Denver, and the [Philadelphia Student Union](#) have gotten their school districts to create policies that address racial disparities in school discipline, resulting in changes that have benefited hundreds of thousands of students.

### Weekend Link Roundup (February 24-25, 2018)

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

*Our weekly roundup of noteworthy items from and about the social sector. For more links to great content, follow us on Twitter at @pndblog....*

#### **Children and Youth**

In an op-ed piece originally published in *The Hill*, Mott Foundation president Ridgway White argues that eliminating funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, as the Trump administration has proposed, would strip "resources from a successful initiative rooted in communities, dismissing decades of evidence proving that consistent participation by students in quality afterschool programs leads to improved school attendance, better grades and higher graduation rates...."

#### **Education**

New York has the nation's most diverse public school system. It also is the most segregated. Michelle Chen [reports](#) for *The Nation*.

With lots of support from the tech industry, "computer science for all" is making its way into k-12 curricula across the nation. But whose interests are being served, students' or the industry's? And given rapid advances in artificial intelligence, will the short-term focus on filling today's tech-sector jobs ultimately backfire? Benjamin Herold and the *Education Week team* [explore](#) these questions with some leading thinkers in the field, including Code.org founder Hadi Partovi, the CSforAll Consortium's Ruthe Farmer, the National Science Foundation's Janice Cuny, and University of Michigan professor Megan Tompkins-Stange, who tracks trends in education philanthropy.

On Medium, Nellie Mae Education Foundation president Nick Donohue [lays out](#) his hopes for a strategic planning process recently announced by the organization — a process that aims to build on its belief that "to prepare all of New England's students to succeed, [it needs] to focus on where the need and opportunity gaps are...[which] means thinking more deliberately about how [it] serves low-income students and students of color."

### **Fundraising**

On the GuideStar blog, Adam Weinger [shares](#) five strategies designed to boost your fundraising results with matching gifts.

### **Gun Violence**

*Inside Philanthropy's* Philip Rojc has a [roundup](#) of the handful of celebrities and philanthropists who have gone public with support for the student-led #NeverAgain movement that has dominated headlines and acted as a focal point for gun reform advocates nationwide since the mass shooting at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School ten days ago.

### [Weekend Link Roundup \(February 17-18, 2018\)](#)

**FEBRUARY 18, 2018**

*Our weekly roundup of noteworthy items from and about the social sector. For more links to great content, follow us on Twitter at @pndblog....*

### **Education**

How can we make strong learning outcomes accessible to every child in public education? Charmaine Jackson Mercer, a new member of the Education team at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, [shares](#) her thoughts.

### **Fundraising**

Forbes Nonprofit Council member Austin Gallagher, CEO of environmental nonprofit Beneath the Waves, [shares](#) five fundraising tips for new nonprofit leaders.

### **Gun Control**

On her Social Velocity blog, Nell Edgington [argues](#) that the pattern of social change in America — from the abolition of slavery, to women's suffrage, to the legalization of interracial marriage — should give us hope that Americans, led by moms, will come together to support commonsense gun legislation.

### **Health**

The real cause of the opioid epidemic that is devastating America? According to a working paper authored by Christopher Ruhm of the University of Virginia its not what you think it is. Richard Florida [reports](#) for CityLab.

### **Human Trafficking**

Here on PhilanTopic, Catherine Chen, director of investments at Humanity United, [announces](#) that, through its [Pathways to Freedom](#) challenge, Atlanta, Chicago and Minneapolis have been invited to partner with the organization to address the urgent problem of human trafficking.

### **International Affairs/Development**

Hungary's right-wing nationalist government has introduced legislation that would empower the interior minister to ban non-governmental organizations that support migration and pose a "national security risk" — a bill seen by many as targeting the "liberal and open-border values" promoted by U.S.-Hungarian financier/philanthropist George Soros. Reuters'Krisztina Than [reports](#).

### [Weekend Link Roundup \(November 18-19, 2017\)](#)

**NOVEMBER 19, 2017**

*Our weekly roundup of noteworthy items from and about the social sector. For more links to great content, follow us on Twitter at @pndblog....*

### **Communications/Marketing**

"In a world where there is 'an avalanche of crazy things coming out of the [current] administration', communications professionals find themselves having to rethink how they communicate both internally and externally," writes Jason Tomassini, associate director for editorial at Atlantic Media Strategies, on the

Communications Network site. At the recent ComNet17 conference, Tomassini and the network invited attendees to participate in a discussion about how they're navigating communications challenges in the current political environment. Here are [four key takeaways](#) from that discussion.

#### **Disaster Relief**

The Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, the fund created by Houston mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County judge Ed Emmett, has announced a second round of grants totaling \$28.9 million to ninety nonprofits. The *Houston Chronicle's* Mike Morris has the [details](#).

#### **Giving**

Although the giving traditions of the Rockefeller family were established almost a hundred and fifty years ago, [writes](#) Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisor's Melissa Blackerby, modern philanthropists can still learn from the family's values and example.

#### **Gun Violence**

In the *HuffPost*, Melissa Jeltsen and Sarah Ruiz-Grossman use data collected by Everytown for Gun Safety to [argue](#) that most mass shootings in America are related to domestic violence.

#### **Higher Education**

The dueling Republican tax bills working their way through Congress have implications for exempt sectors of the economy that could fundamentally change the way they operate. In this [Weekend Edition segment](#), NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro talks to Raynard Kington, president of Grinnell College, a small liberal arts college in Iowa with a large endowment, about the Republican proposal to levy an excise tax on endowment income.

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## **EFSGV - The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence**

<https://efsgv.org/>

### **PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH**

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The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence is a 501(c)(3) organization and public health think tank that identifies and implements evidence-based policy solutions and programs to reduce gun violence in all its forms.

#### **OUR P.A.C.T. WITH YOU**

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (Ed Fund) makes communities safer by translating research into policy. The Ed Fund achieves this by engaging in:

**Policy Development:** The Ed Fund is the gun violence prevention movement's premier research intermediary and founder of the Consortium for Risk-Based Firearm Policy, a group of academics and practitioners who collaborate to develop innovative recommendations for policymakers.

**Advocacy:** The Ed Fund influences the policy-making process by lobbying, educating policymakers, and disseminating our message through media advocacy and outreach.

**Community and Stakeholder Engagement:** The Ed Fund works with impacted community members to create a voting bloc trained to advocate for policies that reduce gun violence.

**Technical Assistance:** The Ed Fund supports policymakers and gun violence prevention advocates by drafting and implementing groundbreaking, evidence-based policy.

## **EXTREME RISK LAWS TOOLKIT**

*August 29, 2018*

Extreme Risk Laws are now in effect in 13 states -- and are being considered in several more. In response to the increased interest in these laws, the Ed Fund has joined Giffords and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility to launch a state legislative toolkit. The toolkit, which is designed to help enact and implement Extreme Risk Laws across the country, aims to reach both advocates and legislators. [READ MORE »](#)

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## **NEW PAPER APPLIES SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL MODEL TO FIREARM SUICIDE PREVENTION**

*June 26, 2018*

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (Ed Fund) is pleased to announce the release of a new paper in Injury Prevention. The paper, entitled "Limiting Access to Lethal Means: Applying the Social Ecological Model for Firearm Suicide Prevention," was authored by the Ed Fund public health team and outlines a novel application of the social ecological model for firearm suicide prevention. [READ MORE »](#)

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## **BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS: THE EMERGING ROLE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDER TRAINING PROGRAMS IN FIREARM SUICIDE PREVENTION.**

*September 13, 2017*

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and the Consortium for Risk-Based Firearm Policy are proud to announce the release of a new report, "Breaking Through Barriers: The Emerging Role of Healthcare Provider Training Programs in Firearm Suicide Prevention." [READ MORE »](#)

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## **ED FUND POLICY EXPERTS AUTHOR ARTICLE ON GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS**

*September 6, 2017*

Legal Director Kelly Roskam and Public Health Analyst Vicka Chaplin of the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence authored the article "The Gun Violence Restraining Order: An Opportunity for Common Ground in the Gun Violence Debate" for the University of Virginia - Institute of Law, Psychiatry, & Public Policy's Developments in Mental Health Law summer issue.

## **ED FUND SUBMITS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS**

*July 21, 2017*

"As a Public Health Analyst for the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and native of Framingham, Massachusetts, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3081 - An Act establishing Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs). This bill would prohibit a person who poses a significant danger of causing physical harm to themselves, the petitioner, or anyone else from having in his or her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms or ammunition for a period of up to 1 year" [READ MORE »](#)

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## **ED FUND STATEMENT: LIFTING GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH BAN IS A NECESSARY STEP**

*March 9, 2017*

"We are committed to listening to research and crafting life-saving policies based on what data tells us about risk factors for violence. We are pleased to hear that Representative Murphy and others are also committed to this common-sense, data-driven approach." [READ MORE »](#)

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## **ENOUGH SPECULATION: NICS BACKGROUND CHECK NUMBERS RELEASED**

*January 4, 2017*

The number of NICS checks completed in a given month (not counting checks and rechecks for concealed carry permits) can be a good indicator of broad trends in gun sales; however, as noted by the FBI, these statistics only represent background checks, not firearms actually sold. In other words, there is not a one-to-one ratio for background checks to gun sales. [READ MORE »](#)

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## **Sign Up For The Trace's Newsletters**

<https://www.thetrace.org/newslettersignup-2/>

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Every year in our country, a firearm is used in nearly 500,000 crimes, resulting in the deaths and injuries of more than 110,000 people. Shootings devastate families and communities and drain billions of dollars from local, state, and federal governments. Meanwhile, the problem of gun violence has been compounded by another: the shortage of knowledge about the issue.

**Most Americans simply are not aware of how many lives firearms claim**, nor understand the factors that contribute to that total. In one poll, the median estimate given for annual gun-related fatalities was 5,000 deaths—less than one sixth of the actual number.

**The national conversation on gun violence mostly misses the big picture.** Mass shootings drive headlines and political responses, but they comprise only 2 percent of gun deaths. Far more people are killed with handguns than assault-style rifles, while everyday gun violence hits marginalized populations the hardest. Nearly half of gun homicide victims are young black men. American women make up nearly 90 percent of the female gun violence victims recorded by all wealthy nations.

**Data and records are shielded from public view—or don't exist.** Gun-lobby backed restrictions on federal gun violence research deprive policymakers and public health experts of potentially life-saving facts. Other laws limit the information that law enforcement agencies can share on illegal guns and curb litigation that could allow scrutiny of industry practices.

**AN EMBOLDENED NRA HAS OPERATED LARGELY IN SECRECY, WHILE ACTIVELY PROMOTING MISINFORMATION.** WITH FOR-profit newsrooms stretched thin, the group has aggressively expanded the presence of firearms in public spaces and institutions and used conspiracy theories about gun confiscation to oppose tighter restrictions. The arrival of an unprecedentedly friendly White House administration has increased the NRA's policy influence, and intensified its attacks on the press.

We believe that when an issue is shrouded by a knowledge gap, **journalism can be a big part of the solution.** As a nonprofit newsroom, The Trace is able to dedicate itself to in-depth reporting that doesn't let up after the latest high-profile shooting leaves the front pages.

### How We Make a Difference

- **We make the problem clear.** In partnership with Slate, we built an eye-opening, [interactive map](#) plotting the locations of nearly 40,000 incidents of gun violence nationwide. The feature received millions of pageviews and generated extensive local coverage and social media conversation. "So many shootings and deaths, so close to my home," wrote one reader. "And I hadn't even heard about most of them."
- **We direct attention to the communities most affected.** Our coverage has called attention to the ways that debates over crime rates can obscure the urgent public safety needs of police districts traumatized by near-constant gunfire. In 2016, our team has reported from neighborhoods in [Milwaukee](#), [St. Louis](#), [Chicago](#), [Louisville](#), [Philadelphia](#), [Brooklyn](#), and [Atlanta](#) to tell the stories of the direct and indirect victims of "[murder inequality](#)" and the hidden tolls it takes on the communities left suffering its burdens.
- **We fill the gaps.** While collaborating with the *Guardian* on an [widely cited series](#) documenting the [rise of fear-based gun ownership](#), we began to explore whether the increased carry of guns might be leading to more gun theft, and more weapons entering the criminal market. Over the period of a year, we obtained records of stolen and recovered weapons from more than 1,000 law enforcement agencies. The data laid the foundation for our "[Missing Pieces](#)" investigation, which linked tens of thousands of stolen weapons to crimes.
- **We report on possible fixes, and the forces that oppose them.** As [part of a series](#) on the NRA's state tactics, our investigative team dug into how the gun group squashed a bill that would have created standards for firearms storage in Tennessee, where an 8-year-old girl had been killed by an 11-year-old neighbor wielding his parent's unsecured shotgun. The story was paired with

an [interactive](#) enabling users to sift for patterns in nearly 300 cases — a total higher than government statistics for the same period — in which a child under 13 obtained a gun and shot someone.

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## Partnerships

We're grateful to the journalists whose work has informed and inspired ours, and eager to be an ally to other newsrooms whose stories touch our beat. We have partnered with a growing roster of national and local media organizations, including:

- [Missing Pieces: Tracing Stolen Guns in California](#)
- [The Mystery Firm That Became the NRA's Top Election Consultant](#)
- [More Than 100,000 Americans Are Victims of Gun Violence Each Year. What Happens to Those](#)

### [Who Survive?](#)

- [The N.R.A. Lobbyist Behind Florida's Pro-Gun Policies](#)
- [How Many People Have Been Shot in Your Neighborhood This Year?](#)
- [NRA is now almost entirely a pro-Republican group, spending more money than ever to ensure](#)

### [Congress doesn't enact any gun safety laws](#)

● [A Mississippi father blames a defective rifle for his son's death — now he's fighting to hold the gun maker accountable](#)

- [Why Did the CDC Stop Researching Gun Violence?](#)
- ['Scared straight' programs divide parents as kids see gruesome results of violence](#)
- [Swiftmud dropped gun club lawsuit one day after lawmaker sent NRA-crafted dismissal plan, records show](#)

- [Shoot Someone In A Major US City, And Odds Are You'll Get Away With It](#)
- [On Patrol With Chicago's Last Violence Interrupters](#)
- [In Flint, Gunfire is Killing Kids at a Devastating Rate](#)
- [Some refugees resettling in America find gun violence instead of peace](#)
- [Where cop cars double as ambulances](#)
- [Since Parkland](#)

We're always looking to start new partnerships. Please [get in touch](#) to discuss a possible collaboration or inquire about republishing Trace articles.

## Our Supporters

The Trace is committed to transparency in every aspect of our funding. We rely on support from individuals, organizations, and foundations to help with our general operations, coverage of specific topics, and special projects. Please [click here](#) for a copy of The Trace's donor transparency policy, a list of donors giving more than \$1,000, and a link to our most recent Form 990 tax filing.

### DONATE NOW

**The Trace (formally incorporated as Trace Media Inc.) is a nonprofit, 501 c3 corporation, tax ID# 47-4175513.**

Acceptance of financial support does not constitute implied or actual endorsement of donors or their positions. [Click here](#) to read more about our policy on editorial independence.

The Trace is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit newsroom dedicated to shining a light on America's gun violence crisis.

Every year in our country, a firearm is used in nearly 500,000 crimes, resulting in the deaths and injuries of more than 110,000 people. Shootings devastate families and communities and drain billions of dollars from local, state, and federal governments. Meanwhile, the problem of gun violence has been compounded by another: the shortage of knowledge about the issue.

**America has a gun violence crisis. Knowing the facts can be part of the solution.**

The Trace is an independent, nonprofit news organization that employs the only team of journalists dedicated to reporting on gun violence every day. Sign up for our emails, and stay informed about a problem too few Americans understand.

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[About The Trace](#)

Every year in our country, a firearm is used in nearly 500,000 crimes, resulting in the deaths and injuries of more than 110,000 people. Meanwhile, the problem of gun violence has been compounded by another: the shortage of knowledge about the issue. We started our site to fill that information void.

**Most Americans simply are not aware of how many lives firearms claim**, nor understand the factors that contribute to that total. In one poll, the median estimate given for annual gun-related fatalities was 5,000 deaths—less than one sixth of the actual number.

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**Data and records are shielded from public view—or don't exist.** Gun-lobby backed restrictions on federal gun violence research deprive policymakers and public health experts of potentially life-saving facts.

**An emboldened NRA has operated largely in secrecy, while actively promoting misinformation.** With for-profit newsrooms stretched thin, the group has aggressively expanded the presence of firearms in public spaces and institutions and used conspiracy theories about gun confiscation to oppose tighter restrictions.

Misinformation and ignorance halt progress on gun violence. Our briefings bring you the facts

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## **Cure Violence: Approaching Gun Violence as a Curable Disease - RWJF**

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-explorer/featured-programs/cure-violence.html>

*Cure Violence's work would not be possible without the generosity of the organizations & foundations listed below.*

- [Advocate Christ Medical Center](#)
- [American Islamic Congress](#)
- [American Psychological Foundation](#)
- [Bernard van Leer Foundation](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois](#)
- Charles E. Marks, Jr. Charitable Trust
- [Chicago Community Trust](#)
- [Chicago White Sox](#)
- [Cook County Board of Commissioners](#)
- [Creative Associates International](#)
- [Get IN Chicago](#)
- Governments of Capetown, South Africa; Colombia; Nova Scotia, Canada and Trinidad & Tobago
- [Illinois Department of Corrections](#)
- [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority](#)
- [Inter-American Development Bank](#)
- [Irvin Stern Foundation](#)
- [John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#)

- [McCormick Foundation](#)
- [Michael Reese Health Trust](#)
- [National Recreation Foundation](#)
- [Northwestern Medicine](#)
- [Polk Bros. Foundation](#)
- [The Margot & Thomas Pritzker Family Foundation](#)
- [Pritzker-Pucker Family Foundation](#)
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [Shambhala Meditation Center](#)
- [Siragusa Foundation](#)
- [Smart Family Foundation](#)
- [UBS – Optimus Foundation](#)
- [USAID](#)
- [U.S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance](#)
- [University of Chicago](#)
- [University of Illinois at Chicago](#)
- [World Bank Group](#)

### **Ranked #9 NGO in the World by NGO Advisor**

Cure Violence stops the spread of violence by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control – detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, and changing social norms – resulting reductions in violence of up to 70%.

- ❏ [Scientific Evaluations](#) Read the scientific studies that show our success and make the Cure Violence Health Model an evidence-based model.
- ❏ [5 Required Components of Cure Violence](#) The Cure Violence Model has specificity: there are three core and two implementing components that are required for it to be a Cure Violence program.
- ❏ [International Partners](#) Learn about our work to reduce violence in Iraq, Honduras, Trinidad, Syria, England, South Africa, and many more.

## **Gun Violence Research Collaborative to Release First Request for Research Proposals in January, Names Advisory Committee | RAND**

<https://www.rand.org/news/press/2018/11/15.html>

### **FOR RELEASE**

Thursday

November 15, 2018

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research, a philanthropic fund that will support scientific research on gun policy, announced today that it will release its first request for proposals in early January 2019 and award up to \$10 million in research funding during its first round of grantmaking.

The collaborative also announced the appointment of an advisory panel that will guide the group's efforts.

The request for proposals will seek researchers' ideas for projects designed to broaden agreement on the facts associated with gun policy, and support development of fair and effective policies that recognize individuals' rights to own guns. The collaborative will award between \$20 million and \$50 million in research funding on these topics over the next five years.

The 12-member research advisory committee will guide the collaborative's efforts, defining research priorities and ultimately choosing which research projects receive support. Details about the committee are included on the collaborative's website ([www.ncgvr.org](http://www.ncgvr.org)).

"We're committed to supporting research that will help address some of the many gaps in knowledge that exist about gun policy in the United States," said Frank M. Clark, chairman of the collaborative's board. "This effort will be nonideological and nonpartisan, and will focus on improving what we know about the causes, consequences and prevention of gun violence."

Clark currently serves as president of the Chicago Board of Education and is a former chief executive officer of ComEd, an electric utility.

The collaborative's research advisory committee is comprised of research experts and practitioners from across the nation, including representatives from law enforcement, government, community, education, health, the private sector and academia. The group will meet periodically to guide the collaborative and make decisions about research proposals.

The committee held its first meeting earlier this week and received comments about priorities for gun research from several groups, including Everytown for Gun Safety, the National Rifle Association, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and March for Our Lives.

Founded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research is administered by the RAND Corporation under direction of the collaborative's research advisory committee. The Arnold Foundation has pledged \$20 million to the collaborative to support high-quality gun violence research over the next five years and is seeking additional donors to ultimately grow the fund to \$50 million.

"The massive problem of gun violence is a concern to all Americans," said Jeremy Travis, executive vice president of criminal justice at the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. "Yet, for many years the federal government has underfunded research on policies and interventions aimed to reduce injuries and deaths, both suicides and homicides, by firearms. For this reason we are thrilled to see the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research launch."

Once the initial request for proposals is released and research requests are received, the proposals will undergo merit reviews conducted by RAND staff members before being considered by the research advisory committee for final decision-making. RAND researchers are not eligible to compete for the funding.

"We hope to hear from a wide variety of stakeholders as we identify those gun violence topics that are most in need of high-quality research," said [Andrew R. Morral](#), the collaborative's director and a senior behavioral scientist at RAND. "We invite experts on gun policy and gun violence prevention to submit suggestions on which topics or research areas the collaborative should focus on. We want the research funded by the collaborative to have the greatest chance of guiding the public and policymakers to fair and effective gun policies."

Researchers with suggestions about priority gun violence research topics should submit the ideas at the collaborative's website.

Morral said the collaborative is structured to ensure high-quality research that is transparent and scientifically defensible. As a result, donors provide funding for research but the decisions about what projects to support are made by the research advisory committee, an independent, nonpartisan group of advisors.

Other members of the research advisory committee are Dr. Regina Benjamin, a former U.S. surgeon general; Reginald Brothers, a security expert and business leader; John D. Graham, a public policy professor; Patrick E. Higginbotham, a federal appeals court judge; Guido Imbens, an economics professor; James P. Lynch, a criminology professor; Sally C. Morton, a professor of statistics; Kathleen M. O'Toole, a retired police chief; Barrye L. Price, a retired Army general; Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, a medical practice leader; and Regina B. Schofield, a nonprofit research administrator.

The collaborative's inaugural [website](#) includes biographies of the members of the research advisory committee and forms to sign-up for email notifications from the collaborative

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## **Gun Violence**

<http://gunviolence.issuelab.org/>

**Lessons learned in the field have greater and more enduring value when others can build on them. Since IssueLab's very beginnings we've held that social sector knowledge is a public good, meant to be freely accessible to all.**

First started in 2006 as a searchable, browseable website set up to collect and share the social sector's knowledge, IssueLab became a service of Foundation Center in 2012. Since then, IssueLab's mission has grown beyond the "simple" collection and distribution of knowledge products, to include the support of social sector organizations in adopting the practical and necessary steps to [openly publishing](#) what they fund and produce. [Foundation Center](#)'s mission is to connect nonprofits and funders to the knowledge they need to do their jobs better and to deepen the impact of their efforts. Through IssueLab we support ongoing learning and research in the social sector, believing in the power of the sector's collective intelligence and the importance of open and free access to that intelligence.

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## **Sandy Hook Promise**

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>

Sandy Hook Promise is a national non-profit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. Based in Newtown, Connecticut, our intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning our tragedy into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children from gun violence.

By uniting people of all beliefs and backgrounds who value the protection of children to take meaningful actions in their homes and communities, we will prevent gun violence and stop the tragic loss of life.

### **OUR MISSION**

Prevent gun-related deaths due to crime, suicide and accidental discharge so that no other parent experiences the senseless, horrific loss of their child.



## GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA FACT SHEET AVERAGE 2003 – 2013

<u>EACH YEAR</u>			<u>EVERYDAY</u>	
<u>ALL</u> <u>AGES</u>	<u>AGES</u> <u>0-18</u>		<u>ALL</u> <u>AGES</u>	<u>AGES</u> <u>0-18</u>
549,380	----	ACTS OF GUN VIOLENCE	1,505	----
114,644	14,783	PEOPLE SHOT	314	41
34,668	2,277	DIE FROM GUN VIOLENCE	95	6
20,308	640	COMMIT SUICIDE	56	2
12,997	1,458	ARE MURDERED	36	4
682	129	ARE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED	2	<1
409	17*	BY POLICE INTERVENTION	1	<1*
273	32*	BY UNKNOWN INTENT	<1	<1*
79,976	12,506	ARE INJURED FROM GUN VIOLENCE	219	34
56,950	9,311	FROM ASSAULT	156	26
18,015	2,945	ACCIDENTALLY	49	8
4,036	186	SURVIVE SUICIDE ATTEMPT	11	<1
975	65*	FROM POLICE INTERVENTION	3	<1*

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), Average of data 2003–2013. Retrieved August 2015 from [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars). Numbers are rounded.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Statistics. Firearm Violence 1993 – 2011. Published May 2013. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fv9311.pdf>

\*Inquiry estimate is unstable due to sample size



## GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA FACT SHEET

MOST CRIMINAL GUN VIOLENCE IS COMMITTED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO LACK MENTAL WELLNESS (COPING SKILLS, ANGER MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS)

BETWEEN 4-6% OF CRIMINAL GUN VIOLENCE IS COMMITTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS MENTALLY ILL

MORE THAN 90% OF INDIVIDUALS WHO DIE FROM SUICIDE HAD A DIAGNOSABLE MENTAL DISORDER

MOST MASS SHOOTINGS ARE PLANNED FOR 6 MONTHS TO A YEAR. IN ALMOST EVERY DOCUMENTED CASE, WARNING SIGNS WERE GIVEN OFF THAT WERE NOT UNDERSTOOD, WERE NOT ACTED UPON QUICKLY OR WAS NOT SHARED WITH SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP

IN 4 OUT OF 5 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, AT LEAST ONE OTHER PERSON HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTACKER'S PLAN BUT FAILED TO REPORT IT

70% OF PEOPLE WHO COMMIT SUICIDE TELL SOMEONE THEIR PLANS OR GIVE SOME OTHER TYPE OF WARNING SIGNS

GUNS USED IN ABOUT 80% OF ALL INCIDENTS AT SCHOOLS WERE TAKEN FROM THE HOME, A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE

APPROXIMATELY HALF OF ALL GUN OWNERS DON'T LOCK UP THEIR GUNS IN THEIR HOMES, INCLUDING 40% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH KIDS UNDER AGE 18.

ANNUAL COST OF GUN VIOLENCE  
\$229 BILLION OR \$700 PER AMERICAN\*

Source: \*Mother Jones. What Does Gun Violence Really Cost? <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/04/true-cost-of-gun-violence-in-America>. U.S. Secret Service's "Safe Schools Initiative,"

# Ending the Gun Violence Epidemic in America - Levi Strauss

<https://www.levistrauss.com/unzipped-blog/2018/09/04/ending-gun-violence/>

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

Levi Strauss & Co. has long been known as a pioneer of the American West, one of the great symbols of American freedom. A company born in 1853, we've seen and been part of some of the biggest transformational movements that have shaped U.S. culture.

As an iconic global company, we know that what we say and do matters. In 2016, we heard from a number of our retail employees who expressed concerns over consumers carrying guns in our stores. That same year, we had an incident where a consumer accidentally shot and injured himself while trying on a pair of jeans. These events prompted our CEO, Chip Bergh, to write an open letter asking gun owners not to bring firearms into our stores, offices or facilities. While not everyone agreed with our decision, we stood firm because we have never been afraid to take an unpopular stand to support a greater good.

We are inspired by the young people who are speaking up on America's gun violence epidemic. It's an issue that affects all of us in this country and is all too prevalent in daily life – whether it be our children participating in active shooter drills at school, worries about our own safety at work or in our community or, most tragic of all, someone we know being hurt by the daily gun violence in this country (one quarter of Americans say they have been directly affected by gun violence).

No single activist, organization or lawmaker is going to reverse this trajectory. It's going to take an entire nation standing up and demanding change. And the business community plays an important role.

That's why today, on top of our previous actions, Levi Strauss & Co. has pledged its support for gun violence prevention in the following three ways:

1. **The Safer Tomorrow Fund:** We've established this fund to direct more than \$1 million in philanthropic grants from LS&Co. over the next four years to fuel the work of nonprofits and youth activists who are working to end gun violence in America.

2. **Everytown Business Leaders for Gun Safety:** We are partnering with Everytown for Gun Safety and executives from the business community, including Michael Bloomberg, to form a coalition of business leaders who believe that business has a critical role to play and a moral obligation to do something about the gun violence epidemic in this country.

3. **Employee Support:** We are doubling our usual employee donation match to organizations aligned with our Safer Tomorrow Fund. Additionally, we're encouraging employees to utilize their five hours a month in paid volunteer time to get more politically active.

“As business leaders with power in the public and political arenas, we simply cannot stand by silently when it comes to the issues that threaten the very fabric of the communities where we live and work,” wrote Chip Bergh, LS&Co. president and CEO, in [an op-ed for \*Fortune\*](#). “While taking a stand can be unpopular with some, doing nothing is no longer an option.”

## **A safer tomorrow**

Through the Safer Tomorrow Fund we will fuel the work of national and grassroots organizations that are working to stem gun violence in America. Initial grant partnerships include support for:

**Live Free:** A movement of interfaith organizations and congregations committed to addressing the causes of pervasive violence and crime in communities of color. Led by [Pastor Michael McBride](#), [Live Free](#) is also a founding member of the [Black & Brown Gun Violence Prevention Consortium](#) (BBGVPC), which is working to scale strategies that reduce urban gun violence in high-risk

communities across the U.S. With LS&Co.’s support, the BBGVPC will train youth impacted by gun violence on successful gun violence reduction strategies in an effort to create an intergenerational pipeline of expertise and leadership. Additionally, the Levi Strauss Foundation will support a series of town halls in cities across the U.S. that are disproportionately impacted by gun violence.

**Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence:** A national nonprofit organization committed to fighting for a safer America, one where our children grow up without fear of gun violence. We will work together with Giffords to support business community engagement and education on the issue of gun violence prevention.

**Everytown for Gun Safety:** Everytown for Gun Safety is the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country that brings together Americans who are fighting for public safety measures that can save lives. We will support training and leadership development opportunities that empower young people to be advocates for gun safety. This will include supporting a series of Youth Leadership Summits organized by volunteers from Students Demand Action, a part of Everytown for Gun Safety led by high school and college students. These summits, many of which will be held in cities disproportionately impacted by gun violence, are aimed at empowering students to lead the charge to prevent gun violence in their communities across the country. And earlier this year, we made a donation to benefit Everytown from the [Levi’s® x Karla Welch collection](#).

This is just the beginning. As we continue to learn where we can be most helpful on the issue, we will continue to distribute grants to support those working to shape an America that’s free from gun violence.

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## **Foundation Center Issue Lab on Gun Violence | Council on Foundations**

<https://www.cof.org/content/foundation-center-issue-lab-gun-violence>

### **ABOUT THE COUNCIL**

An active philanthropic network, the Council on Foundations, founded in 1949, is a nonprofit leadership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. It provides the opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. The Council empowers professionals in philanthropy to meet today's toughest challenges and advances a culture of charitable giving in the U.S. and globally.

### **OUR MISSION**

Provide the opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance, and sustain their ability to advance the common good.

### **OUR VISION**

The Council on Foundations is a strategic leader that raises issues of shared interest, expands the thinking about our field, builds collaborative efforts, and breaks down barriers that stand in the way of effective and dynamic philanthropy.

### **OUR VALUES**

The Council on Foundations believes:

- Philanthropy plays a critical role in strengthening civil society and building thriving communities.
- Community among colleagues, knowledge sharing, and a positive environment for philanthropy will enhance foundations’ impact.
- High professional and ethical standards, including a commitment to diversity and inclusion, build public trust in philanthropy.
- Philanthropy benefits from a unifying voice empowered to advance its interests.
- Charitable giving advances the common good by contributing to an active civil society.

- Diverse forms of philanthropy and giving tools offer communities the ability to support a variety of charitable purposes.

## OUR HISTORY

From our founding in 1949 to the community foundation's centennial and beyond, read the [history of the Council on Foundations](#).

## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

In the spirit of transparency, we make available to the public our audited financial statements, our 990, our policy on inclusiveness, and important updates for our members:

- [2017 Audited Financial Statements](#)
- [2017 Form 990](#)
- [Policy on Inclusiveness](#)

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## **Want to fund gun research? Ask for private donations. [Opinion]**

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Want-to-fund-gun-research-Ask-for-private-12999228.php>

OPINION // OUTLOOK

By Laura Arnold June 18, 2018 Updated: June 18, 2018 9:30 a.m.

During the next five years, a \$20 million investment from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation will support research into the causes of and solutions to gun violence in America. The RAND Corp., a non-partisan and widely respected research leader, is coordinating the effort. The foundation expects another \$30 million in commitments from fellow philanthropic organizations to help fund this work

Working last month in our Houston office on a speech about the importance of criminal justice research, we saw a BREAKING NEWS alert flash across the television. Exactly 40 miles away, a young man wielding a shotgun and a revolver had opened fire in a high school art class, killing eight of his fellow Santa Fe High School students and two teachers.

After Parkland, Fla., after Sutherland Springs, after Las Vegas, after mass shootings that are happening with disturbing regularity, too many Americans are growing numb to the pain and anguish that accompanies such outrageous acts of violence.

Chicago, where more than 1,000 shootings have occurred so far this year, is all too familiar with the grim statistics that leave concerned citizens asking, "Why?"

**PULITZER FINALIST: We the (gun) people**

**EDITORIAL: No more moments of silence**

Why do 30,000 Americans die of gun-related violence each year, a number that translates into 100 gun deaths every day?

Why is it that you're 25 times more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S. than in other high-income countries?

Why is it that more Americans have been killed in schools in 2018 than have lost their lives in military deployments?

The frustrating answer to each of those questions is this: We do not know.

And we don't know, partly because Congress more than two decades ago throttled federal funding for gun research, passing the so-called Dickey Amendment, named for Rep. Jay Dickey, an Arkansas Republican and dedicated National Rifle Association ally.

**RELATED: Attacking the NRA is foolhardy**

The result intentionally has left unanswered the most basic questions about preventing gun violence, such as who is supplying the guns used to commit shootings? Are the buyers the same ones committing the crimes? Which policies are most effective at curbing violence?

Special interests have beaten back efforts to undo the virtual ban on federal funding for these studies. But even Dickey has since reversed himself, arguing that scientific research helped reduce the motor vehicle death rate and saved hundreds of thousands of lives — all without getting rid of cars.

“We can do the same with respect to firearm-related deaths, reducing their numbers while preserving the rights of gun owners,” he said.

This crisis is a national scourge, and the clock starts now on developing evidence-based gun policies. We can’t wait for the next, inevitable, BREAKING NEWS from a school, a church, a public event. Philanthropists must seize this moment to step in, fill the void and prod the government to act.

The first critical step is setting into motion the type of research that cuts across party lines and builds bridges rather than widening chasms.

#### **EDITORIAL: Gov. Abbott changed his tone after Santa Fe, and action on guns must follow**

During the next five years, a \$20 million investment from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation will support research into the causes of and solutions to gun violence in America. The RAND Corp., a non-partisan and widely respected research leader, is coordinating the effort. The foundation expects another \$30 million in commitments from fellow philanthropic organizations to help fund this work.

For too long, we’ve hoped for a day when news alerts on school shootings cease to exist. But with objective information, reality-based research and scientific evidence, we can do more than hope — we can act.

Over the years, research into vehicle safety, drunken driving and the harmful effects of smoking has led to lifesaving public policy. Someday, perhaps, our nation’s premier health agencies will be free to tackle gun-violence research. But until that happens, we can’t surrender to cynicism and acceptance of the status quo. We must act.

*Arnold is the co-founder of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.*

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## **How We Can Prevent Gun Violence - The California Wellness Foundation -**

### **The California Wellness Foundation**

<https://www.calwellness.org/stories/how-we-can-prevent-gun-violence/>

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Brian Malte

Oct. 25, 2018—Each of us deserves to feel safe every day. But the reality is that every day millions of people live with the fear and trauma associated with gun violence. While our attention is often riveted to the horrifying news of mass shootings, these incidents comprise less than 2 percent of all gun deaths. Every time there is another mass shooting we grieve and we want action to stop the gun violence epidemic. That’s why the Hope and Heal Fund focuses on the 98% of gun violence that occurs across the nation – what we call everyday gun violence. We strive to channel the energy, passion, and righteous anger that comes from the tremendous loss we feel on a daily basis into decreasing gun violence and making our communities and homes safer.

The gun violence that communities face every day in the form of community violence, domestic violence and suicide is not inevitable. It’s preventable. But we need public health officials to start talking about gun violence as a public health issue in the media. We need them to provide community advocates with actionable data to help them make the case that gun violence is preventable. And, we need to deliver effective messaging to communities and help train them to work with their local media to lift up their challenges and successes. In five years, I want to see positive stories about communities taking effective actions to decrease gun violence and public health officials using the media to talk about prevention. This will change the narrative on gun violence to one that is solution-based, preventable and hopeful.

**Changing the narrative supports prevention**

In California, gun violence poses a major threat to the health and safety of our communities. Over the past decade, gun violence has claimed nearly 35,000 lives in California. The current California news media often reports about gun violence using a criminal justice angle, rather than a public health angle.

Because the media reports on gun violence after community members are shot and killed, they leave their audience with the impression that gun violence is inevitable. They don't report on the ways that racism, poverty, education, and other structural inequities are linked with gun violence. They don't report on the effective solutions already working in communities across California.

Take the organization [Advance Peace](#), for example. It's a violence interruption program started in Richmond, California, that reaches out to young men involved in firearm offenses and places them in personalized fellowships that provides them transformative opportunities including life coaching, mentoring, job training, health service and even travel opportunities. Recently, some of the young men traveled to Robben Island in Cape Town, South Africa, where Nelson Mandela was held captive as a political prisoner for 27 years. This program lets the young men see that there are other approaches, and helps break the cycle of violence and make communities safer.

While we work towards changing the media narrative, our youth are not waiting. Youth leaders' continued energy and passion to end the nationwide gun violence epidemic is already providing new, positive and powerful narratives. March for Our Lives started a national conversation on gun violence that also brought in voices of those most affected by gun violence. Their actions are not only starting to change the media narrative -- their actions are sparking changes in gun laws, in corporate behavior and increases in voter registration. More young people are motivated to take action to prevent gun violence than ever before -- and change is already happening.

While our youth are forging ahead and inspiring us, much more needs to be done. We must lift up effective strategies and can do this by:

- Supporting research that helps uncover actionable data,
- Advancing strategies that work and promoting innovation,
- Pushing for increased public and private funding for effective strategies, and
- Changing the media and public narrative around gun violence.

What we have to keep in mind is that gun violence is a health – not a political – issue. We must begin to treat it as such.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOPE AND HEAL FUND

[Brian Malte](#)

Brian Malte is a 23-year veteran of the gun violence prevention movement. He started as a volunteer in 1994 for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco. He currently serves as executive director for Hope and Heal Fund.

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## **New Venture Fund - for research on gun violence prevention**

<https://hewlett.org/grants/new-venture-fund-for-research-on-gun-violence-prevention-0/>

- AMOUNT  
\$250,000
- PROGRAM  
[Special Projects](#)
- DATE AWARDED  
7/13/2015
- TERM  
16 Months
- TYPE OF SUPPORT  
Project

### **OVERVIEW**

The Joyce Foundation, with support from New Venture Fund, recently established the Fund for a Safer Future aimed at collaboratively supporting research and developing strategies to reduce U.S. gun violence. Since the mid-1990s, U.S. government-sponsored research on gun violence has been effectively banned. The lack of empirical evidence—on issues ranging from risk factors for gun violence, to the efficacy of proposed federal and state policies, to gun dealer behavior—hampers efforts at reducing gun violence. With this grant, New Venture Fund, with strategic oversight from the Joyce Foundation and other experts, will fund additional studies aimed at improving the evidence base to help understand the sources of and, eventually, to reduce U.S. gun violence.

### **ABOUT THE GRANTEE**

GRANTEE WEBSITE

[www.newventurefund.org/](http://www.newventurefund.org/)

ADDRESS

1201 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste 300  
Washington, DC 20036

### **GRANTS TO THIS GRANTEE**

Oct 11, 2018

\$50,000

[for support of organizational diversity, equity and inclusion capacity of SPARC](#)

[ALL GRANTS TO THIS GRANTEE](#)

Aug 27, 2018

\$500,000

[for the Fund for a Safer Future](#)

Housed at the New Venture Fund, the Fund for a Safer Future (FSF) is a funder collaborative that helps reduce gun violence in the United States. When FSF started its work in 2011, the field of gun violence prevention was beginning a strategic shift that accelerated after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012. Before 2011, the movement was small, relatively isolated, and significantly under-resourced. With the help of FSF and other donors, the movement has become larger, better organized, more coordinated and diverse, and increasingly strategic. During the term of this grant, FSF will be able to continue its coordination efforts among states and expand its research focus.

[ALL GRANTS TO THIS GRANTEE](#)

Apr 10, 2018

\$1,050,000

for the Moving Beyond Oil project

The New Venture Fund's Moving Beyond Oil project aims to contribute to the reduction of oil use and the transition to clean-energy alternatives in the transportation sector in the United States. This grant will seek to ensure that the country reduces oil consumption by promoting the deployment of electric drive vehicles in key states and cities, by supporting a diverse set of civil society coalitions.

ALL GRANTS TO THIS GRANTEE

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## **Chicago funders on gun violence: 'We do not have time to waste' - Polk Bros. Foundation**

<https://www.polkbrosfdn.org/chicago-funders-on-gun-violence-we-do-not-have-time-to-waste/>

Chicago funders on gun violence: 'We do not have time to waste'

*This article by Ellen Alberding (Joyce Foundation), Gillian Darlow (Polk Bros. Foundation), David Hiller (McCormick Foundation) and Julia Stasch (MacArthur Foundation) originally appeared in [Crain's Chicago Business](#) on May 23, 2018.*

*In 2017, Chicago suffered 3,550 shootings and 650 homicides, an improvement on the previous year, but still a tragic and unacceptable level of violence that destroys lives and harms communities. As summer begins—historically when the city sees a spike in violence—Crain's and the Partnership for Safe & Peaceful Communities, a coalition of more than 30 Chicago funders and foundations, including MacArthur, Joyce, Polk Bros. and McCormick, examine in a five-part series some proven and promising approaches to reducing gun violence.*

Chicago is facing dual crises of rising gun violence and a decline in police legitimacy, and many Chicagoans have stepped up to respond.

Families, community and religious leaders, civic and church groups, and others are working to make blocks and neighborhoods safer throughout the city. Businesses and local nonprofit organizations are reaching out with jobs and services for individuals at risk of violence. Reforms are underway at the Chicago Police Department. Chicagoans realized that continuing to do the same thing, hoping each year would be better than the last, is no longer acceptable.

We, as Chicago funders and foundations, must play our role, too. [The Partnership for Safe & Peaceful Communities](#) grew out of an effort in 2016 to support the operations of the [Police Accountability Task Force](#), which examined how the police department can improve the way it serves all Chicagoans. The partnership is investing more than \$40 million in complementary strategies to meaningfully reduce gun violence over the next two to three years. A 25 percent decrease in homicides by the end of 2019 would restore the 20 years of progress on violent crime Chicago experienced prior to the 2016 spike in crime.

Members of the partnership are coordinating our individual investments with a focus on [four key strategies](#):

- Providing services like jobs and cognitive behavioral therapy to those most at risk of gun violence.
- Increasing the effectiveness and legitimacy of the Police Department through improved officer training, better police-community relations and greater public involvement in police accountability measures.
- Strengthening gun laws to reduce the availability of illegal firearms.
- Supporting grassroots organizations for summer [events and projects across 19 Chicago community areas](#) to foster stronger community bonds, crowd out violence and promote constructive engagement with law enforcement.

Each strategy is rooted in data, research and common sense. Each reflects the best thinking of experts in the field of crime research, men and women in uniform, and a cross-section of Chicago’s residents and community- and faith-based leaders. Based on the successful implementation of programs in other cities, such as the Los Angeles-based [GRYD Foundation](#), we made the strategic investment decision to adapt these approaches locally.

We are committed to working in new ways, with new partners and connecting organizations across the city that are focused on social change. Those of us with resources must act. In the current era of sweeping national and disruptive change and declining trust in key institutions, foundations like ours can be less risk-averse than government, which invests public dollars, or the private sector, which must answer to shareholders. We can be flexible and experiment. We are learning to be more responsive and less directive, evolving in real time as conditions change.

There is no one solution to gun violence. That is why we are aligning our resources on several innovative strategies to address this issue through evidence-based programs, community engagement and policy change. We do not have time to waste.

We came together around an urgent need to focus on the financial, social and human cost of gun violence, which has an immediate effect on victims, families, and our communities, and threatens the city’s long-term vitality and prosperity.

Moreover, Chicago foundations and funders continue to focus on addressing the root causes of gun violence, including economic and racial segregation.

Our hope is that through the partnership, as well as the work of others, we will see three positive shifts: a continued, sustained decrease in gun violence; an increase in police legitimacy; and even more people, businesses, nonprofits and civic leaders working together to restore peace and safety to our city’s neighborhoods.

**Read More from this 5-Part *Crain’s Chicago Business Series***

- Part 1: ‘We do not have time to waste’**
- Part 2: Strengthen state gun laws**
- Part 3: Coupling jobs and therapy**
- Part 4: Professionalize street outreach**
- Part 5: How block parties and urban gardening deter gun violence**

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## **RAND will help lead foundation-funded gun violence research effort |**

### **Education Dive**

<https://www.educationdive.com/news/rand-will-help-lead-foundation-funded-gun-violence-research-effort/525346/>

AUTHOR

[Linda Jacobson@lrj417](mailto:Linda.Jacobson@lrj417)

PUBLISHED

June 11, 2018

**Dive Brief:**

- Whether education and prevention programs during childhood can reduce gun violence later in life and how youth are affected by having access to guns at home are two of the research areas that the RAND Corp. will oversee during the next five years as part of a privately funded project, according to a press release.
- The Laura and John Arnold Foundation, based in Houston, is giving \$20 million to finance the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research, which will also examine protective factors that limit gun violence. The donation is expected to spark contributions of up to \$30 million from the philanthropic sector.

- Educators will be among the different groups participating on an advisory committee, along with healthcare professionals, university researchers, and representatives from government, law enforcement and the private sector.

#### **Dive Insight:**

In March, following the passage of the federal STOP School Violence Act, which sends funds to school districts for training and additional security measures, the American Educational Research Association (AERA) expressed opposition to the provision that redirected funds away from school violence research and evaluation.

“Losing these programs is tragically counter-productive and short-sighted at a time when the need for evidence-based policies and practices that protect schools, students and society has never been greater,” the statement said.

In previous statements, AERA leaders also drew attention to policies that have restricted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from studying gun-related violence. According to NPR, the spending bill signed by President Donald Trump removes those limits and allows the CDC to conduct research on the topic as it would other public health issues. But the report also notes that scientists are skeptical about any policy change because the bill didn’t include funding for research.

#### **Recommended Reading:**

### **RAND Selected to Help Oversee National Effort to Increase Funding for Research on Gun Violence** **FOR RELEASE**

Thursday

May 31, 2018

The RAND Corporation has been selected to help oversee a philanthropic fund that will support high-quality research on issues related to gun violence.

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research is a creation of the Houston-based Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF), which has pledged \$20 million to the effort and will seek an additional \$30 million from other philanthropic groups.

Over the next five years, research sponsored by the collaborative will seek data-driven answers on the causes and patterns of gun-related violence in the United States. Based on scientific evidence, the work will help policymakers craft evidence-based policies to reduce gun violence.

“Understandably, gun violence is a deeply emotional issue. But arguing about the proper response will not solve the problem. Our goal is to provide objective information to guide a rational, fact-based response to a national crisis,” said Laura Arnold, co-chair of the [Laura and John Arnold Foundation](#). “We need data, not politics or emotion, to drive our decisions.”

The National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research will oversee the dissemination of key research findings to a wide variety of audiences.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation was chosen to help administer the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research because of RAND's deep technical knowledge of gun policy science and its ongoing [Gun Policy in America](#) initiative, a project designed to establish a shared set of facts on gun policy that will improve public discussions and support the development of fair and effective policies.

“Discussions about the best ways to reduce gun violence—suicides, injuries, and homicides—should be based on facts and rigorous, objective analysis,” said [Michael D. Rich](#), president and CEO of RAND. “The National Collaborative is an important step toward building the evidence base needed for constructive debates and effective policymaking.”

The Arnold Foundation also has committed to providing three years of support for the RAND Gun Policy in American initiative, which assessed the state of gun policy research in the United States and created tools to support the development of new gun policy research projects.

The LJAF initiative comes as the federal government has virtually abandoned research into gun violence. The Journal of the American Medical Association said last year that from 2004 to 2015, federal research related to gun violence was “substantially underfunded and understudied” compared with other leading causes of death, based on the mortality rates of each.

The National Collaborative research agenda will include these areas of interest, among others:

- **Characteristics of gun violence** (How are guns purchased? How do changes in ownership occur? How are guns used? What are the differences in fatal and nonfatal gun use?)
- **Gun violence interventions** (Can we more effectively prevent violence-prone people from accessing guns? Which, if any, childhood education or prevention programs reduce gun violence in childhood and in later life? Do programs to physically improve high-crime areas work to decrease gun violence?)
- **Risk and protective factors** (What are the potential risks and benefits of having a gun in the house? What factors increase the probability of gun violence? What are the impacts of youth having access to, possessing and carrying guns?)

“The lack of data in this critical area is truly startling,” said Jeremy Travis, the Arnold Foundation's executive vice president of criminal justice.

For instance, according to news reports, there are few recent national studies of who owns guns, how gun owners acquired their weapons, the theft of guns, the number of households with guns or the risk factors associated with gun violence.

“Unfortunately, government research has been stymied for more than two decades, and that gap hasn't been adequately addressed by the private sector,” Travis said. “As with other public health challenges, the crisis of gun violence will be effectively addressed only if we produce high-quality, objective research. We believe that funding this research will save lives.”

The National Collaborative will form a Research Advisory Committee, likely made up of representatives from law enforcement, government, community, education, health, the private sector, and academia, to help shape the research agenda and choose rigorous, policy-relevant research.

Every day in the United States, close to 100 people are killed by guns, and for every death, two more are injured. According to independent reports, the gun-related murder rate in the U.S. is 25 times higher than the rate in 22 other high-income nations. About two-thirds of gun deaths in the United States are suicides.

### **About the Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation's core objective is to improve the lives of individuals by strengthening our nation's social, governmental, and economic systems. Its investments are focused on criminal justice, education, health care, and several other key areas. LJAF has offices in Houston, New York City and Washington, D.C.

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## **Home - EverytownResearch.org**

<https://everytownresearch.org/>

### ABOUT

Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund seeks to improve our understanding of the causes of gun violence and the means to reduce it – by conducting groundbreaking original research, developing evidence-based policies, and communicating this knowledge in the courts and the court of public opinion.

Every day, 100 Americans are killed with guns. The gun homicide rate in the U.S. is 25 times higher than that of other developed countries, but research shows that common-sense public safety laws can reduce gun violence and save lives.

Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund is an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to understanding and reducing gun violence in America.

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### **Gun Violence in America**

[FACT SHEETS](#) • [Gun Violence Trends](#) • February 14, 2019

**Red Flag Laws: Helping Prevent Mass Shootings**

[REPORTS](#) • [Gun Violence Trends](#) • February 1, 2019

**A Nation of Survivors: The Toll of Gun Violence in America**

Also featured in: [Domestic Violence](#) [Suicide](#) [Unintentional Deaths](#)

[INFOGRAPHICS](#) • [Gun Violence Trends](#) • February 1, 2019

**Gun Violence in America**

The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties—gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting. In order to illustrate the magnitude of everyday gun violence, Everytown has gathered the most comprehensive, publicly available data.

[REPORTS](#) • [Gun Violence Trends](#) • December 6, 2018

**Mass Shootings in the United States: 2009-2017**

Using FBI data and media reports, Everytown for Gun Safety developed an analysis of mass shootings that took place between January 2009 and December 2017.

Also featured in: [Guns in Public Places](#) [Background Checks](#) [Domestic Violence](#)

[FACT SHEETS](#) • [Gun Violence Trends](#) • July 20, 2018

**Five Ways to Enhance the Gun Violence Prevention Strategy in Your City**

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## **Protect Our Schools**

<http://protectourschools.com/>

### **ABOUT**

**Inspired by the courageous young people across the nation, students, parents, educators and community advocates are joining together to take action on gun violence in schools. Together we must take up the students' call, "No more."**

We call on every individual and community in America to join us—in a way that makes sense for them—to demand that our leaders take real action to end gun violence in our schools and to protect our students.

We know that this problem can be solved. America is one of the few nations where mass-shootings are commonplace. Mass murder in our schools is not a predetermined outcome that we must be prepared for—it is a consequence of decisions made by our elected leaders.

The problem extends beyond mass shootings. Gun violence affects the lives of our students far too often, inside and outside of schools. Gun violence affects too many youth, especially in communities of color, on a daily basis. It is far past time for our leaders to take real action when it comes to gun violence. Because they have not acted, we must.

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## **These 7 Anti-Gun Violence Groups Are All Led By Young People - YR Media**

<https://yr.media/news/7-anti-gun-violence-groups-led-by-young-people/>

06.15.18

The die-in on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 2018. (Photo by Haley Samsel for Youth Radio)

The die-in on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 2018. (Photo by Haley Samsel for Youth Radio)

Even as schools and colleges have let out for the summer, the dialogue on school shootings and gun reform isn't going away.

Just three weeks after the most recent school shooting, and less than a month since [the shooting at Santa Fe High School](#), student activists aren't slowing down in their pursuit of gun control. In fact, many are ramping up, preparing for November's midterm elections.

Adult-led groups have been fighting gun violence for years. Since [the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre](#), the spotlight is on student effort.

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Here are the six major student-led organizations fighting to end gun violence in America.

### **1. MARCH FOR OUR LIVES**

Who they are: One of the first and most well-known of all of the recent movements, March for our Lives was founded by the survivors of the Parkland, Fla. shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Hosting the historic March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C. cemented the faces of its founders, like Emma Gonzales and David Hogg, as icons in the student-driven fight for gun reform.

Their focus: The org already has an impressive list of policy agendas that include items like universal background checks and high-capacity magazine bans. They also touch on the importance of addressing the roles domestic abuse and mental health play in gun violence. Using a number of tactics for organizing including rallies, marches, petitions, voter registration drives and social media campaigns, the organization has become a model for other student activists looking to engage on the issue. And they held an enormous march event on March 24 in Washington, D.C. and across the country and world.

### **2. STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION**

Who they are: As the first group to publicly form after the Parkland shooting — just two days after — Students Demand Action emerged as a gun safety advocacy group for and by students through the existing Everytown for Gun Safety organization.

Their focus: The campaign aims to provide resources for students to create local chapters that organize around gun legislation. Through starting student demands groups, creating a database to monitor NRA funding to local congressmembers and organizing voter registration drives, the group is cultivating student leaders to work within their home communities and schools on gun reform.

How can you get involved: Students can join their Instagram and text message campaigns to get the word out to other youth, and create their own student demand groups using the organization's resources.

### **3. TEAM ENOUGH**

Who they are: Team Enough was also catalyzed into action after the Parkland shooting. Launched May 22, 2018, the group is a division of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. But Team Enough wants to show the diverse face of gun violence in America that plagues communities of color at disproportionate rates. The coalition has organized a superstar squad of outspoken activists on gun control, including Parkland survivor Aalayah Eastmond, March for Our Lives speaker Matt Post, Youth Over Guns founder Ramon Contreras and Women's March youth organizer Kaleab Jego.

Their focus: The new group's first matter of business is mobilizing young people to the polls in November in order to elect candidates that will advance its three main priorities: universal background checks for gun sales, a ban on assault weapons and the implementation of "extreme risk" laws to remove firearms from those identified as potentially dangerous. Above all, they aim to elevate the voices of marginalized groups and people of color into the mainstream dialogue on gun action.

### **4. ORANGE GENERATION**

Who they are: While most of the other groups on the list formed in response to Parkland, Orange Generation is the newest group to emerge, as it launched in the aftermath of the shooting at Santa Fe High School that killed 10 in May. Survivors quickly formed Orange Generation — orange being the official color of the anti-gun violence movement in America — representing a generation of students that have grown up seeing gun violence in their schools and communities.

Their focus: The group has a few unique goals. In addition to supporting common-sense gun reform, CDC research on gun violence and mental health reform, their website states that they aim to provide rehab services like counselors and PTSD clinics for recovering survivors of gun violence, and financial support to families of people injured in mass shootings.

## 5. STUDENTSMARCH.ORG

Who they are: Not to be confused with studentmarch.org, the 2015 rally for tuition reform, StudentsMarch.org(with an “s”) first formed by organizing the March for Our Lives in Dallas. The high school students used the march as a launching point for more sustained activism in Dallas and beyond. When the NRA hosted its national convention in Dallas just two months later, the organization jumped back into action by holding a march with students across the country to focus on cultivating student advocacy.

Their focus: This month, the group launched its first individual campaign. Named #WeAreThe97, the goal of the 97-day campaign leading up to November elections is to identify the elected officials that stand with the 97% of Americans that support universal background checks on firearms (and those that don’t).

How you can get involved: StudentsMarch is encouraging other students to contact their officials and urge them to support universal background checks before Sept. 7 when the org will release a list of elected officials who support and oppose the issue, heading into the Nov. 6 elections.

## 6. YOUTH OVER GUNS

Who they are: Youth Over Guns was created in March after students across the country walked out of class for 17 minutes to honor the 17 victims of the Parkland shooting. Founder Ramon Contreras, a 19-year-old New York City student, told local media he felt that there was not enough of a focus on how gun violence impacts communities of color. Youth Over Guns launched their first action on June 2 when they held a march across the Brooklyn Bridge that drew thousands of participants, as well as a smaller sibling march across the Golden Gate Bridge.

At the #YouthOverGuns march over the Brooklyn Bridge, @Everytown @MomsDemand #TeamEnough #MSDStrong and more are represented among those marching. #WearOrange

## 7. NATIONAL DIE-IN

Who they are: The National Die-In movement was co-founded Orlando natives Amanda Fugleberg and Frank Kravchuk, along with Nurah Abdulhaqq. Fugleberg and Kravchuk got involved in the movement against gun violence after the Pulse nightclub massacre not far from where they’d both grown up. The student activist group held a rally and die-in on Capitol Hill on June 12.

The die-in lasted for 12 minutes, 720 seconds - one second for each mass shooting that has taken place since Pulse. "Congress, you're killing us" one participant's sign reads. [pic.twitter.com/PXqa1UDA7K](https://pic.twitter.com/PXqa1UDA7K)

Their focus: Their website says, “We aim to commemorate the 49 innocent lives lost in the Pulse Nightclub Massacre on June 12, 2016, and every life lost to gun violence before and after this tragic event. We also demand that in response to our protest common sense gun control finally be passed.”

How you can get involved: At the time of this writing, the organization doesn’t have any upcoming events planned.

GUN CONTROLGUN VIOLENCEMARCH FOR OUR LIVESMARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLASPARKLAND SHOOTINGPOLITICSWEAR ORANGEYOUNG LEADERS

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## **Joyce Foundation - Gun Violence Prevention and Justice Reform**

<http://www.joycefdn.org/programs/gun-violence>

### WHAT WE FUND

Issues of equity are at the core of our mission to improve quality of life, promote safe and healthy communities, and build a just society in the Great Lakes region. **We focus specifically on advancing racial equity and economic mobility for the next generation in the Great Lakes region.** We concentrate on initiatives that promise to have an impact across the region and/or within the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Our program areas are [Culture](#), [Democracy](#), [Education & Economic Mobility](#), [Environment](#), and [Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform](#).

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## **Gun Violence Prevention | David Bohnett Foundation**

<http://www.bohnettfoundation.org/programs/gun-violence-prevention/>

We pursue our mission by providing funding, state-of-the-art technology and technical support to innovative organizations and institutions that, in addition to meeting our funding guidelines, share our vision.

David Bohnett Foundation

245 South Beverly Drive

Beverly Hills CA 90212

Tel: (310) 276-0001

info@bohnett.com

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## **Smart Investments for Safer Schools - Center for American Progress**

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2018/12/19/464445/smart-investments-safer-schools/>

### **Introduction and summary**

On April 20, 1999, the nation watched in horror as the news cycle flooded with images of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, where two students killed 12 classmates and one teacher and wounded many others inside.<sup>1</sup> The shooting at Columbine High School marked a turning point for the American public school system. This mass school shooting was the deadliest act of school violence at the time, and it made Americans feel less confident in the security of school buildings, which were once considered safe places for students to learn and grow. State and federal governments immediately responded to the Columbine shooting by investing in visible security measures such as school resource officers (SROs), metal detectors, and surveillance equipment.

In the aftermath of more recent school shootings, governments at the state and federal levels have allocated significant new resources to keep students safe and avert future tragedies. Too often, however, these important resources are used to implement more stringent security measures in schools, including hiring SROs, installing security devices such as metal detectors, and even arming teachers with guns.<sup>2</sup> Although this focus on physical—and visible—safety measures is understandable in the wake of a tragedy, it results in the adoption of approaches to school violence that have not been proven to advance school safety. Moreover, there is some evidence that safety measures such as SROs and metal detectors create a less welcoming environment for students, particularly students of color.<sup>3</sup> It is therefore important to invest in proven, evidence-based solutions that go beyond providing visual representations of safety to create a genuinely safer school environment. Such approaches include violence prevention programs, teacher trainings, and peer mediation interventions.

This report mentions Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary School, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School because these were the locations of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history and prompted an immediate response from lawmakers nationwide. However, many of the policies enacted in the wake of incidents like these have the unintended impact of making many students, particularly students of color, feel much less safe in their schools. These students are often left out of conversations around interventions to school violence and school shootings, yet those same interventions make their education environments less safe. For this reason, this report addresses why the call to harden schools places these students further at risk.

Furthermore, a single-minded focus on hardening schools funnels critical resources into the pockets of private companies that are prepared to profit from tragedy. Although these companies' products may seem to make students safer, there is inconclusive evidence as to whether they achieve this goal. It would be more productive in the long term for the federal government, states, and school districts to invest in creating a positive, safe, and supportive school climate.

This report considers the United States' history of school violence and the subsequent investments in stringent security measures to date. It presents evidence as to why this response largely fails to increase school

safety. It also examines the corresponding growth in the school security industry, which does not provide evidence-based solutions. Finally, the report offers policy recommendations that encourage investment in strategies to improve school climate and keep students, teachers, and schools safe.

## **History of policy responses to the most catastrophic U.S. public school shootings**

One year after the shooting at Columbine High School, former President Bill Clinton pledged an additional \$60 million to enable U.S. public K-12 schools to hire 452 officers under the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in Schools a program he implemented in 1999.<sup>4</sup> According to a survey by *USA Today*, in that same year, more than 70 percent of surveyed parents said that their public K-12 school had taken steps to prevent school violence.<sup>5</sup> In a Pew Research Center study released on the one-year anniversary of the Columbine tragedy, 37 percent of parents indicated that their child's school updated its security.<sup>6</sup>

In 2003, more than \$350 million in funding was made available for public K-12 schools to purchase security technology through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) after schools were identified as potential sites for terrorist attacks.<sup>7</sup> Through DHS' Public Safety and Community Policing Grants, schools could hire high school police officers and purchase security equipment.<sup>8</sup> And not only schools received generous support. By 2004, the DOJ had awarded \$747.5 million to school resource officer programs and an additional \$13 million in grants to assist law enforcement with providing school security products such as metal detectors.<sup>9</sup> Another senseless tragedy occurred on December 14, 2012, when a gunman entered Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and killed 26 children and educators.<sup>10</sup> Soon after, the Connecticut Legislature passed new safety laws that appropriated \$42 million for security grants to Connecticut schools.<sup>11</sup> A year later, the U.S. Department of Education awarded \$1.3 million to the Newtown Public School District to assist with recovery efforts.<sup>12</sup> The state of Connecticut also provided a \$50 million grant to rebuild the elementary school, and the construction was completed in 2016.<sup>13</sup>

The pattern repeated this year. On February 14, 2018, a former student killed 17 classmates and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Immediately after the tragedy, Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) called for investment in more visible security measures including steel doors, bulletproof glass, and metal detectors.<sup>14</sup> One month later, Gov. Scott signed a \$400 million bill into law that included a \$67.5 million appropriation to arm nonteaching staff, such as administrative and maintenance staff, at every public K-12 school in the state, as well as \$99.7 million to fund school resource officers.<sup>15</sup>

A major increase in federal funding for school safety also followed the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. To support school safety and other resources, for example, the federal government increased funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program under Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act from \$400 million to \$1.1 billion.<sup>16</sup> Notably, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has pointedly refused to rule out allowing school districts to use these funds to purchase guns for teachers.<sup>17</sup> Since President Donald Trump signed the STOP School Violence Act on March 23, 2018, an additional \$75 million in funding was authorized for violence prevention strategies, including improving communication between law enforcement agencies and school administrators to identify threats and intervene.<sup>18</sup> The Federal Emergency Management Agency also received \$249 million in grant funding that schools can use to create safe rooms and implement warning systems.<sup>19</sup>

It is essential to increase investment in school safety and take all necessary precautions to keep students safe while they learn. However, policymakers and government officials must be sure to allocate funding to measures that are proven to make students safer. The following section explores why it is ineffective to invest in the appearance of safety—something that has also increased profit margins for corporations.

## **Policies to harden schools have not been proven effective**

The recent debate around school safety has presented hardening schools—both with visible security measures and zero tolerance policies—as the most important strategy to protect students. Evidence suggests, however, that these stringent security measures do not make schools safer. Several government officials, including some in the Trump administration, have primarily focused on hardening schools through visible security measures such as increased numbers of metal detectors, surveillance cameras, and SROs, as well as arming teachers with guns. Studies on the effects of such stringent security measures have found that these approaches do not increase school safety, and there is unfortunately no evidence that they are effective in preventing school violence.<sup>20</sup> Although surveillance cameras may help law enforcement officers identify perpetrators and investigate after an event, it is unclear whether they help deter school violence overall, as students can move misbehavior to places on school grounds that lack surveillance.<sup>21</sup> Reviews of school discipline research show that zero tolerance policies are also not effective at reducing school violence.<sup>22</sup> The implementation of zero tolerance policies has increased the prevalence of suspension and expulsion to address nonthreatening behaviors from dress code violations to talking back to teachers.<sup>23</sup> In fact, these policies negatively and disproportionately affect students of color, students with disabilities, and low-income students.<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, security personnel and metal detectors specifically have proven to be ineffective at protecting students.<sup>25</sup> Some of the sites of the deadliest K-12 school shootings—including Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Columbine High School—had an armed SRO or security guard on the scene.<sup>26</sup> A 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service explained that there is limited available research on whether SRO programs deter school shootings, and it drew conflicting conclusions about whether SRO programs effectively reduce school violence.<sup>27</sup> Proposals to secure schools by arming teachers and other school staff are also unlikely to make schools safer. It is unlikely that armed educators will be able to stop an active shooter: The FBI reviewed 250 active shooting incidents in the United States from 2000 through 2017, and in only seven cases did a civilian with a valid firearms permit stop the shooter.<sup>28</sup> Arming teachers and staff is also unlikely to serve as an effective deterrent because most cases of gun violence in schools involve a student bringing a gun to school from home. According to a review of school shootings by the Department of Education and the Secret Service, in more than 68 percent of school shootings from 2013 to 2015, the attacker acquired the firearm(s) from their own home or from a relative's home.<sup>29</sup>

Furthermore, researchers have found that other unintended, negative consequences accompany stringent security measures, such as students feeling less safe with higher levels of security because of increased student arrests, and that they are a hindrance to teaching and learning due to out-of-school suspensions.<sup>30</sup> The constant removal from and re-entry into school, coupled with the loss of classroom instruction time can profoundly disrupt a student's academic progress and performance.<sup>31</sup> An analysis of data from the 2009–2010 School Survey on Crime and Safety, published by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), shows that school officials are more likely to refer students to local law enforcement for smaller infractions such as theft and vandalism, issues that the school administration would otherwise handle.<sup>32</sup> Unnecessary referrals to law enforcement can lead to students being funneled into the criminal justice system and burdened with criminal records, which ultimately affects opportunities later in life.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, there is evidence that increased use of law enforcement and SROs has serious, negative consequences for students of color and students with disabilities.

### **Stringent security measures harm students of color and students with disabilities**

Researcher Jason Nance recently found that in schools with higher concentrations of students of color, there is an increased likelihood of the utilization of punitive discipline policies such as zero tolerance policies and a combination of various stringent security measures.<sup>34</sup> Schools where the nonwhite population was greater than 50 percent of the school population were two to 18 times more likely to use a mix of metal detectors, school police and security guards, locked gates, and random sweeps than schools where the nonwhite population was less than 20 percent.<sup>35</sup> Data from the Department of Education show that in schools across the United States,

students of color, and students with disabilities served by the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are far more likely to be subject to restraint and arrest than white students and students without disabilities.<sup>36</sup> In the 2011-12 school year, black students represented 16 percent of the total student enrollment in U.S. public K-12 schools but 27 percent of students referred to law enforcement and 31 percent of students involved in a school-related arrest.<sup>37</sup>

Students with disabilities served by IDEA, meanwhile, represented about 12 percent of total student enrollment in U.S. public K-12 schools but accounted for around 25 percent of those arrested and referred to law enforcement; 75 percent of those physically restrained at school; and 58 percent of those placed in seclusion or involuntary confinement.<sup>38</sup> In 2014, a school resource officer in Kentucky handcuffed two children with disabilities by the biceps because their wrists were too small. This led the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to file a lawsuit against the Kenton County Sheriff's Office for using unnecessary and excessive physical restraint.<sup>39</sup> The ACLU stated that law enforcement officials in schools need to be trained on how to work with children with disabilities and trauma; specifically, training should prioritize the learning of appropriate de-escalation skills.<sup>40</sup> A federal judge ruled in favor of the students, noting that the officer violated the children's constitutional rights by using excessive force.<sup>41</sup> The lawsuit also prompted a DOJ investigation of the Covington Independent School District, which agreed to enact new policies to ensure discipline practices do not discriminate against children with disabilities.<sup>42</sup>

### **The growing school security industry**

Increased state and federal funding to protect schools and students has boosted the private security industry.<sup>43</sup> In 2017, sales of security equipment and services to public K-12 schools reached \$2.7 billion; they are expected to grow to \$2.8 billion in 2021.<sup>44</sup> According to NCES survey data, the number of schools using video surveillance systems increased from 20 percent of all public K-12 schools in 1999 to more than 70 percent of such schools in 2013.<sup>45</sup> Research company IHS Technology estimated that schools and universities spent \$768 million on security measures in 2014.<sup>46</sup> And from February 2018 to August 2018, that number had ballooned, with school districts investing \$900 million into school safety over those months alone.<sup>47</sup>

These investments demonstrate a commitment to making schools safer for students. However, government officials and school administrators must ensure that they are investing in evidence-based solutions in order to avoid allowing money intended for public schools to go to private security companies and law enforcement agencies. A deeper look into the school security industry shows that advocacy organizations and corporations are poised to increase their profits by selling more products directly to schools. In particular, school safety conferences offer an opportunity for these companies to present and sell their products to parents and administrators.

### **The motives of school safety advocacy groups are unclear**

The school safety advocacy group Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) was founded by two trade organizations: the Security Industry Association (SIA) and National Systems Contractors Association. These companies assign members to the PASS steering committee, which is responsible for "...[bringing] a new vision into reality when it comes to appropriately securing schools."<sup>48</sup> The SIA was a supporter of the innovative STOP School Violence Act and subsequently provided guidance to security companies on how to secure funding under this provision.<sup>49</sup> Importantly, PASS is a school safety advocacy organization led mostly by security industry professionals, as is a similar organization, the Secure Schools Alliance (SSA).<sup>50</sup> One employee at Allegion, a security company specializing in doorway security products, sits on the boards of both advocacy organizations concurrently. Both groups advocate for school safety and security products and view themselves as leaders in the national discussion to secure schools. Another example is the School Safety Advocacy Council, which is chaired mostly by law enforcement officers.<sup>51</sup> The Council hosts multiple conferences throughout the year where security companies can sell their products. The most recent was the Conference on Active School Shooters, which was held in the first week of October 2018.<sup>52</sup>

The security industry’s growing interest in the education sector may come from a true desire to help improve safety. However, these organizations also have a monetary interest in promoting their products. And it is unclear whether they are selling products that are proven to make schools safer or simply looking for an opportunity to increase their profits. James Marcella, director of Industry Relations for Axis Communications, is listed as an organization leader for the SSA advocacy group.<sup>53</sup>

In a recent interview with trade magazine “Security Sales & Integration,” Marcella discussed the education market as an area of concentration for electronic security companies and the increased demand for products.<sup>54</sup>

It is unclear whether the products that Marcella refers to are being assessed for their ability to keep all students safe. Yet this year, several school security conferences offered opportunities for security companies to exhibit and sell products targeted at schools. In June 2018, the SIA held a Government Summit that brought together government employees, congressional staff, security manufacturers, system integrators, technology executives, and law enforcement personnel, among others.<sup>55</sup> The conference was sponsored by a variety of security companies, including Allegion, PASS, and SSA.<sup>56</sup> Featuring an almost a full day of panels and sessions dedicated to school security, this conference was free for government officials at all levels including federal-, state-, county-, and municipal-level staff.<sup>57</sup>

The next month, the School Safety Advocacy Council hosted its 13th annual National School Safety Conference in Orlando, Florida.<sup>58</sup> This conference boasted an opportunity for exhibitors to present to more than 900 attendees looking for school safety technology, video surveillance, access control, panic alarms, and crisis management tools.<sup>59</sup> Also in July, the National Association of School Resource Officers hosted a conference in Reno, Nevada, that provided yet another opportunity for security companies to exhibit and sell products catered to school security.<sup>60</sup>

The school security products industry is growing even though companies are pushing products without any clear evidence that they are effective in making schools and students safer. Indeed, while stringent, visible security measures may seem like they are increasing students’ safety, there are more effective, evidence-based methods to reduce school violence.

## **Recommendations**

Ultimately, schools and districts need to employ evidence-based methods to improve school climate in order to prevent violence. These include gun violence prevention measures. Schools and districts should also work to conduct more comprehensive research on policies to support school safety and provide clear timeframes in which to implement interventions.

### **Invest in evidence-based strategies that are proven to be effective**

Schools, districts, and the government should exclusively allocate funding to programs and strategies that are proven to make schools safer. After a tragedy occurs, there is an understandable push for investments in stringent security measures. Those investments add to a blossoming school security products industry that funnels money into private companies, but those funds should go toward supporting students with evidence-based programs. Through flooding schools with SROs and implementing zero tolerance policies, current practices have also created environments that put students of color and students with disabilities at risk of accumulating criminal records for minor infractions. Investments in school safety should be more thoughtful and strategic in order to ensure that interventions work for all students.

For example, modifying school climate to facilitate better communication and more positive interactions among staff, educators, and students has been found to be more effective than using coercive disciplinary practices.<sup>61</sup> Additionally, positive-behavior support, increased teacher training, and peer mediation interventions are important educational and therapeutic approaches to promote a sense of physical and psychological safety in schools.<sup>62</sup> There are also research-based social and emotional skills that can help students address mental health needs, learn to discuss their feelings, and feel more connected to their school community so that they are less likely to engage in negative and harmful behavior.<sup>63</sup>

## **Better research**

Policymakers and government officials should support more research on effective approaches to improving school climate and increasing school safety, with a specific focus on preventing school violence. The federal government, states, school districts, and schools all should examine their data—such as data collected through NCES or Bureau of Justice Statistics surveys—to craft appropriate solutions. School districts in particular should collect more specific data, such as data on the type of violence, where it happened, and the school’s response. These data should be made available to researchers who can highlight the social circumstances that lead to school violence, evaluate responses, and allow administrators to intervene where necessary. And policymakers at all levels should fund and publicize evaluations of promising approaches to improving school safety. This research would also allow policymakers to implement more effective interventions that could help avoid future school shootings and improve overall school climate and safety.

## **Provide clear time frames for interventions to work**

Schools should set clear time frames to implement new interventions on school violence and to measure their effectiveness. In setting these time frames, schools should consider that interventions need time to work. However, interventions that have not proven to be effective after multiple years need to be re-evaluated or discontinued altogether. In particular, schools and school districts should consider the impact of school safety interventions on students of color and students with disabilities, as these students are more likely to be negatively impacted by certain approaches. Eliminating strategies that are not effective prevents wasting resources and makes it easier to identify the strategies that work to make schools safer.

## **Gun violence prevention measures**

One key aspect of preventing school shootings is addressing the numerous gaps in our gun laws that leave communities vulnerable to gun violence. Preventing gun violence in schools does not depend on hardening schools or arming teachers but instead on addressing the rampant problem of gun violence in the United States.

CAP has advocated for a number of policy interventions that would help reduce gun violence, including banning assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines,<sup>64</sup> enacting universal background checks for gun sales,<sup>65</sup> and investing in community-based violence reduction programs<sup>66</sup> and public health research into gun violence.<sup>67</sup> Together, these initiatives will make communities—and therefore schools—safer from gun violence.<sup>68</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Advocates, individuals, and government officials at all levels must do everything they can to prevent school shootings and ensure that schools are safe places for students, teachers, and other employees. That states and the federal government provide additional funding for schools after a tragedy shows that they rightly place enormous value on the safety of the nation’s youth. However, distributing large amounts of money to private companies for school security products has not made schools safer. It is important to systematically invest in safe, healthy, and supportive schools for all students—not just after a devastating event such as a school shooting but also in an effort to prevent these and other forms of school violence.

While security measures can be a legitimate intervention on which to spend resources, aggressively seeking to harden schools and arm educators with guns is not a viable, evidence-based strategy. Students do not benefit from more guns in schools, nor do they benefit from resources going into the pockets of private companies that profit from national tragedies. Investing in a wide array of approaches proven to improve school climate and student safety is the smart thing to do.

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## **Shooter Detection Systems**

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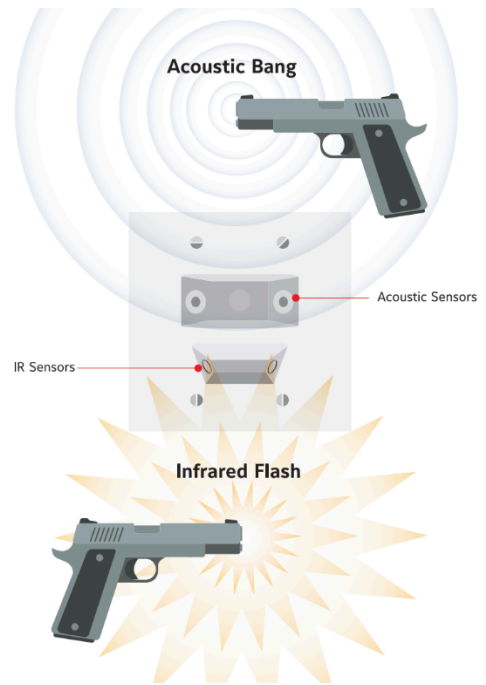
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## GUARDIAN INDOOR ACTIVE SHOOTER DETECTION SYSTEMS

In an analysis of 160 active shooter incidents from 2000 through 2013, the FBI found that more than two-thirds happened at businesses or schools. 2014 to 2015 had the most active shooter incidents ever recorded in a two-year period. These sobering statistics make it clear that protecting employees from this threat needs to be a security priority. Shooter Detection Systems (SDS), a leader in gunshot detection, knows that a quick response by security teams and law enforcement can make a huge difference between life and death. So they developed the Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System, one of the most advanced active shooter detection and alerting technologies available. The Guardian System is widely installed and actively deployed in real-world environments nationwide. This cost-effective system is easily integrated into your existing infrastructure and is compatible with leading-edge security systems such as access control, alarm panels, video surveillance, mass notification, mobile application technologies and other notification pathways. While many shot detection systems rely solely on acoustic feedback, Guardian sensors also look for an infrared flash. This dual authentication improves accuracy and greatly reduces false alerts. With Guardian sensors installed throughout your facilities, critical information can be relayed to occupants — as well as emergency personnel outside — so that the proper steps can be taken to quickly control the situation. By quickly detecting shots, life-threatening delays in response can be avoided.

Product Highlights • Virtually instantaneous automated gunshot detection • Dual-factor authentication (acoustic and infrared detection) reduces potential for false alerts • Displays floor plan of facility with shot location information • Easily integrates into any network using standard Power-Over-Ethernet • Integrates with leading-edge security systems: • VMS • Access Control • Mass Notification • Mobile Alerts • Requires extremely low network bandwidth • Draws less than 1 watt of power • Fits into standard 4-inch electrical box • Can be flush mounted in ceiling or wall or surface mounted for concrete/brick structures • Includes simulation and training modes

The Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System represents a highly effective, efficient and affordable way to help protect your staff and visitors from tragic acts of gun violence. Seamless integration and simple operation means you can focus more of your time and resources on the goals of your business



**SHOOTER  
DETECTION  
SYSTEMS**

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The Guardian System validates an acoustic bang by looking for infrared flash. This dual-factor authentication virtually eliminates the potential for false reporting.

For more information, call 1.800.289.2647 or visit [www.TycoIS.com](http://www.TycoIS.com).

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### C2P - Gun Shot detection integrations to XProtect

The C2P Gun Shot Detection integration uses the GPS coordinates to link events to XProtect cameras.

*Updated on Thursday, February 7, 2019*



Provided by ConvergenceTP

GIS & GPS Sensors & RFID Video Analytics Fire and Life Safety Gunshot Detection City Surveillance

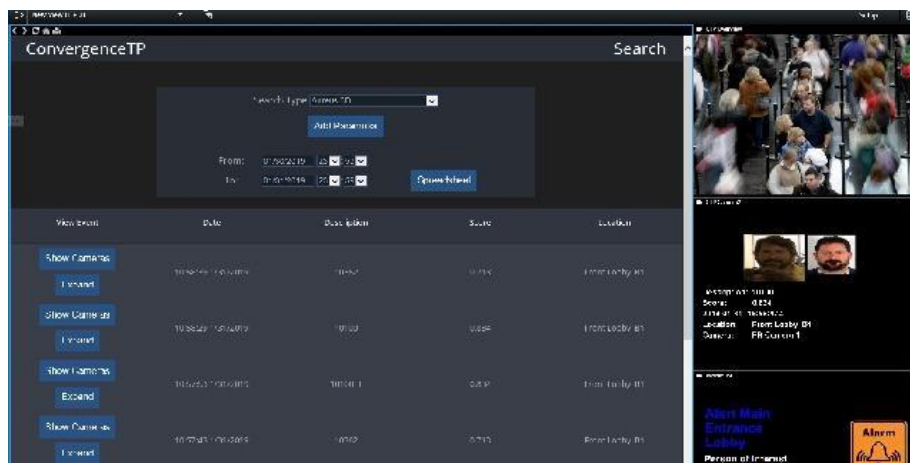
The C2P integration framework makes the XProtect® Smart Client the unified head-end solution for monitoring gun shot events in real-time using the gun shot GPS coordinates and XProtect camera coordinates to link them together.

The gun shot events are displayed on a map using the gun shot GPS data.

### C2P - Facial Recognition using CyberExtruder

The C2P Integration framework seamlessly integrates CyberExtruder Aureus3D into XProtect.

*Updated on Thursday, February 7, 2019*



### Artificial Intelligence Video Analytics Access Control Facial Recognition Tailgating City Surveillance

The C2P facial recognition integration with CyberExtruder provides a comprehensive set of real-time, forensic search and reporting tools. C2P also provides face tracking technology, as well as Wiegand data output capability that submits the facial ID as a credential into any access control system.

## The Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System

[http://shooterdetectionsystems.com/indoor-detection/?gclid=EAlalQobChMI4qv3sslT4AIVRLnACh1RPg4oEAAYAAEgLRzPD\\_BwE](http://shooterdetectionsystems.com/indoor-detection/?gclid=EAlalQobChMI4qv3sslT4AIVRLnACh1RPg4oEAAYAAEgLRzPD_BwE)

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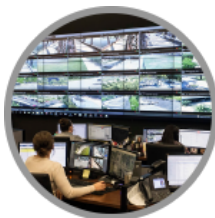
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VMS



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## **Tips to Access Funding Sources for ShotSpotter**

### **View Tips to Access Funding Sources for ShotSpotter Webinar**

#### **About this funding archive webinar:**

Over 85 U.S. cities currently use ShotSpotter and are seeing the benefits of improved community safety and gun violence reduction. ShotSpotter alerts enable first responders to get to the gunfire location quickly – to aid victims, collect evidence, apprehend offenders and engage the community.

In this recorded archive of February 27, 2018 webinar, Amanda Wood, our Senior Government Relations Consultant, will help navigate you through the federal grant system and guide you to maximize your opportunities for financial support. She has secured funding for multiple communities and has worked closely with the ShotSpotter team for over 10 years.

You'll learn:

- How to Secure grant funding
- How to Explore opportunities with DHS
- What's in store for fiscal year 2018 – 2019
- How to Establish partnerships to strengthen your application
- Steps to Ensure federal funding through development of a strategic grant application and political support
- How to Build a comprehensive funding strategy (with multiple sources of funding)

#### **About our speaker: Amanda L. Wood**

Senior Government Relations Consultant, Becker & Poliakoff, Washington, DC

Amanda Wood represents municipal, corporate and nonprofit clients on matters related to transportation, economic development, natural resources, law enforcement, and social services in Washington, DC. She previously served as Legislative Director to Senator Bob Graham of Florida, where she was responsible for developing and implementing the Senator's legislative agenda and strategy. While serving as the Senator's chief advisor on federal appropriations, Ms. Wood worked closely with representatives from cities, counties, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and state agencies to advocate for projects ranging from infrastructure improvements to research and cultural projects.

As a Senior Government Relations Consultant, Amanda's primary focus is assisting clients with federal funding needs. In addition, for private sector clients, Amanda trains their sales teams to communicate effectively with their local government clients and helps them identify and pursue funds for local government acquisition needs. She provides strategic advice to sales teams and guides clients and prospects through the funding process, including review of grant applications. She achieves success through direct communication with sales targets and research regarding community-specific federal funding opportunities. Amanda has a BA from Georgetown University.

#### **About our Moderator: Ron Teachman**

Director, Public Safety Solutions – ShotSpotter, Inc.

Ron Teachman is a 38-year law enforcement veteran, with domestic and international experience, who has served as Chief of Police in two cities, both of which became ShotSpotter client agencies under his leadership. Recognizing that reducing and preventing gun violence is a key to repairing police-community relations, Ron joined SST in October 2015 to help acquaint his former colleagues with the value of the ShotSpotter service. Ron began his police career in 1977 in his hometown of New Bedford, MA, working in a variety of positions while ascending through the ranks, before serving as Chief from 2006 to 2011. Since January 2013 until his arrival at SST, Ron was the Chief in South Bend, Indiana. Both New Bedford and South Bend are racially, ethnically and religiously diverse cities of about 100,000 residents, with expanding undocumented immigrant populations. Between his terms as Chief, Ron worked in Tajikistan, building community-police partnership teams. Ron has a JD from New England Law/Boston.

## Press Releases

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**September 5, 2018**

CHICAGO SIGNS \$23 MILLION MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH SHOTSPOTTER TO EXTEND GUNSHOT DETECTION COVERAGE INTO NEXT DECADE

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**August 16, 2018**

SHOTSPOTTER RECEIVES NOBLE TECHNOLOGY AWARD

**May 3, 2018**

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**April 10, 2018**

ShotSpotter Study Reveals More than 4,800 Gunshots Near U.S. Public K-12 Schools in 2017

**April 3, 2018**

SHOTSPOTTER DETECTED OVER 86,000 GUNFIRE INCIDENTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES IN 2017

**March 27, 2018**

SHOTSPOTTER ADDS TWO KEY EXECUTIVES TO DRIVE BUSINESS EXPANSION

**March 15, 2018**

HARTFORD AND LOUISVILLE SELECTED TO TEST INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS USING SHOTSPOTTER IN 2018 U.S. MAYORS

**January 24, 2018**

SHOTSPOTTER AND VERIZON PARTNER TO EXPAND GUNSHOT DETECTION THROUGH CITY STREET LIGHTS

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## **The Scientist, The Investor And The CEO: How ‘Shots Fired!’ Technology Turned A Profit**

October 30, 2018

[Forbes](#)

<https://www.shotspotter.com/news/the-scientist-the-investor-and-the-ceo-how-shots-fired-technology-turned-a-profit/>

“Against the odds, after struggling for more than two decades and after facing criticism about how much shots-fired technology costs, ShotSpotter, the company behind "shots fired!", may finally be finding its feet. The Newark, Calif.-based company, wh "... (read more [here](#))

**How ShotSpotter locates gunfire, helps police catch shooters and works to ‘denormalize’ gun violence**

May 10, 2017

<https://www.shotspotter.com/news/how-shotspotter-locates-gunfire-helps-police-catch-shooters-and-works-to-denormalize-gun-violence/>

[Washington Post](#)

“ShotSpotter is the audio-sensing technology that alerts police in D.C. and about 90 other cities to when and where a gun has been fired by measuring the distance from its many sound sensors. Within 45 seconds, it can provide not only a detailed locat ... (read more [here](#))

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## **Colorado Police Agency to Pilot Gunshot Detection System**

*The technology will be tested in an area of Colorado Springs with the highest reports of gunfire.*

**BY RACHEL RILEY, THE GAZETTE / SEPTEMBER 28, 2018**

SHUTTERSTOCK

(TNS) — Colorado Springs police are working with federal agencies to see if a military-grade technology can help combat gun violence.

The FireFLY gunshot detection system, similar to a program used in other U.S. cities, is a network of acoustic sensors that detects when a shot is fired, pinpoints the location of the gunfire and immediately notifies police, said police spokesman Lt. Howard Black.

Alabama-based Invariant worked with several government defense research organizations to develop the technology to detect hostile fire during military operations, according to the Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center.

### **RELATED**

[Louisville Plans to Become First U.S. City to Use Drones to Respond to Gunshots](#)[North Carolina School Deploys Integrated Gunshot Detection System](#)[West Palm Beach, Fla., Invests in ShotSpotter Tech to Help Curb Gun Violence](#)

Now, Colorado Springs police are working with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Department of Defense to adapt the system for civilian law enforcement.

As part of a pilot program, officials have installed the network of sensors near the Valley Hi neighborhood and East Fountain Boulevard and South Chelton Road — the intersection that has the highest reports of gunfire in the city, according to police.

The system, which officials tested using live fire on Tuesday, has been designed so that it can be moved to other areas of the city, Black said.

Police hope that, because dispatchers will be immediately notified of gunfire instead of relying on residents' reports, police will be able to respond to more shootings, get to the scene faster and make more gun-related arrests, Black said.

“We’re also hopeful that ... people will really think twice before they make an inappropriate choice of pulling that trigger — that they might have a criminal consequence — because of that technology,” he said.

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## **Louisville Plans to Become First U.S. City to Use Drones to Respond to Gunshots**

*The city has applied for federal permission to launch self-guided drones to collect video at the scene of gunshot reports coming from its ShotSpotter system.*

**BY BEN MILLER / FEBRUARY 16, 2018**

SHUTTERSTOCK/NIKITADOT

Louisville, Ky., is vying to become probably the first city in the country to use autonomous drones to respond to the sound of gunfire.

The city has applied for a [special program](#) the Federal Aviation Administration is running, where it will give a handful of cities temporary permission to get around long-standing drone rules in order to run pilot projects. Those rules, which operators typically have to get individual waivers to get around, include flying drones outside the operator's line of sight, flying at night and flying above people.

All of those rules would make it pretty difficult for a city to do what Louisville wants to do. The city has [ShotSpotter](#) sensors spread throughout its urban fabric, listening for gunshots. When such a noise is picked

up, and interpreted by ShotSpotter's analysts to be gunfire and not a similar sound, a notification is sent to police who can respond to the scene.

Louisville wants to try out the concept of sending self-routing drones to fly to the scene first. That could bring about several possible benefits: Since they're airborne, drones would likely be able to arrive on scene faster than a police officer. With an aerial view, they could capture video evidence to help authorities find the person who fired the weapon. And in the case of a false alarm — there have been reports of sensors interpreting fireworks and backfiring cars as gunshots — the drones might be able to keep an officer from responding to nothing.

It's an idea that came out of need. According to [Chris Seidt](#), Louisville's director of information technology, Mayor Greg Fischer tasked the city's Office of Performance Improvement and Innovation — which Seidt was in before moving to his current position — with finding outside-the-box solutions to some urgent problems.

Gun violence was a big one. [According to LouieStat](#), the city's statistics portal, Louisville saw shootings more than double from 228 in 2014 to 460 in 2016. They fell in 2017, but around that time the city was installing ShotSpotter. The new system gave officials an indication that there was still a lot of shooting to worry about.

"In its first six months of existence, we had 800 activations of the system," Seidt said. "In the 400 square miles of Jefferson County, that's a bit of a problem."

Another bad statistic for the city: Its clearance rate, or the rate at which homicide cases end in an arrest, is about 50 percent. That's below the [national average](#).

We thought, 'What's the likelihood of getting a better clearance rate if we get to the site of a gunshot incident quickly?'" Seidt said.

There's another reason, unrelated to crime, behind the project: Like most cities, Louisville still needs to learn about how people are going to use drones in the future.

"We think drones being integrated into urban environments is something the city needs to be involved with, so by taking the lead on this ... program, we feel like we can have a say on how the drone ecosystem in our city develops," he said.

## HOW IT WOULD WORK

The pilot, if approved, is likely to be limited in scope to start off with. The city would be looking for a few parts of town without a lot of flight path obstructions or restrictions, and it would set up geofencing to limit the drones to those parts of town. It would need to purchase new autonomous drones; the fire department already uses manual drones under more restricted conditions, but those wouldn't suit the needs of the project.

"Our goal is to test the theory and see if this is an effective use case of the technology," Seidt said. "We're not looking to go immediately into production and deploy hundreds of drones across the community."

The drones would probably have video cameras, which would turn on the moment they launch to respond to a gunshot report and stay on until they return, and maybe equipment to detect heat signatures at night. They would have manual control for emergencies, but mostly they would rely on software to guide them — at predetermined elevations — to the location of gunshots.

And the drones wouldn't follow people, cars or other objects. That capability exists within autonomous drones, but for now Seidt said it's not part of the city's plans. Remote operators would have the ability to maneuver the cameras in order to capture more footage of something.

From ShotSpotter's perspective, the idea is pretty straightforward.

"We send an XML digital alert to a system that can ingest it, and then the heavy lifting is done by an (unmanned aerial vehicle) system that can take a specific lat and long from our system and then do the ... work to get a drone to get from wherever it takes off to that alert," said Ralph Clark, chief executive officer of ShotSpotter.

Clark said he's only heard of one other group that wanted to use autonomous drones to respond to ShotSpotter, and that was in South Africa where a customer wanted to use them to try to catch rhino poachers.

While the idea of using drones to respond to ShotSpotter is new in the U.S. — none of the sources interviewed for this story had heard of similar programs — the idea of people using technology to respond to the system is not. According to Clark, some of the company’s customers have hooked the system up to surveillance cameras that are able to pan, tilt and zoom to focus on the location of a gunshot.

### **PRIVACY, RACE AND THE FUTURE**

Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst for the American Civil Liberties Union, said he has some concerns about the program. One in particular is the possibility that such programs could, if they spread, lead to police disproportionately targeting communities of color. That’s been a problem in the past with policing across the country — as Stanley pointed out, whites and African Americans consume marijuana at about the same rates but African Americans are arrested for it [far more often](#).

“Some cities have only put ShotSpotter in poor and minority neighborhoods,” he said.

That’s been an issue with other types of technology, too. Predictive policing methods have, in the past, taken their data from previous crime figures. Since police were already doing more in low-income and minority neighborhoods, some have [accused](#) predictive policing algorithms of flagging those neighborhoods as needing more police.

That said, officials from ShotSpotter and Louisville have both argued that the drone program might actually help protect citizen privacy relative to other surveillance options. After all, the proposal is to only send out drones when there’s a report of a gunshot. If the city were to try to use immobile cameras for the same purpose, they would need to blanket the landscape with them.

In that regard, Stanley agrees.

“I agree in the abstract. If it’s an either-or choice, I’d prefer to have surveillance in places with suspected gunshots than everywhere all the time,” he said.

But he’s skeptical it would actually work out that way.

“If this (idea) were to take off, we’d probably have both,” Stanley said.

Gunshot sensors aren’t the only type of automated data-gathering networks cities are building. The [Array of Things project](#) coming out of Chicago is testing the idea that cities can collect all kinds of data — foot traffic, air quality, rain levels, etc. — in order to improve their operations. Premise Data, a startup that uses crowdsourcing to gather information, is starting to [make a push](#) into the U.S. And computer vision algorithms are giving more cameras the ability to [identify objects and events](#). Conceivably, these could all act as automatic data feeds to trigger some kind of response from local government.

The purpose of the FAA’s program is to learn about how cities might be able to use drones in ways they haven’t before. So Louisville’s program, being probably the first of its kind, could set an example for other cities to do similar things in the future.

“They’re looking not only to validate the safety ... I think they’re trying to drive innovation in many use cases for drones and how those can impact the economy,” Seidt said.

Seidt expects the FAA to announce in May which pilot projects it will approve.

[Ben Miller](#) Associate Editor of GT Data and Business

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Ben Miller is the associate editor of data and business for *Government Technology*. His reporting experience includes breaking news, business, community features and technical subjects. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in journalism from the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, and lives in Sacramento, Calif.

The system may also help authorities retrieve more ammo casings for a national network of ballistic evidence that’s used to solve crimes, said ATF spokeswoman Mary Markos.

The system is similar to another gunshot detection program called ShotSpotter that cities can pay to subscribe to; however, the FireFLY won’t cost the city, Black said.

ShotSpotter is in use in more than 90 cities across the country, including New York City, Chicago and Denver. The California-based company's website boasts of dramatic decreases in gunfire and increases in gun-related arrests in areas that use the system.

Denver Channel 7 reported in April that since Denver police began using ShotSpotter in early 2015 it has led to 102 arrests and the recovery of more than 80 guns.

ShotSpotter's two-year contract with the city is worth nearly \$2 million, according to Channel 7.

But critics have questioned whether the ShotSpotter system can actually help police catch or deter more criminals.

Some communities have discontinued the program amid concerns related to its cost and effectiveness, according to multiple media reports.

A 2016 Forbes Magazine analysis of data from seven participating cities found that police were unable to find evidence of gunshots 30 to 70 percent of the time after ShotSpotter alerts.

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## **Ect Services**

*Ect Service Inc*

1501 South Preston Street # 1

Louisville, KY 40217

Phone: Show Number

Web: [www.ectservices.com](http://www.ectservices.com)

**Ect Services** is a privately held company in Louisville, KY and is a Single Location business.

Categorized under Safety and Security Specialization. Our records show it was established in 1981 and incorporated in KY. Current estimates show this company has an annual revenue of 8193233 and employs a staff of approximately 47.

ECT Services, Inc. was founded and works on the ideal of "Synergy", where individual Team Member strengths and talents, combined with the attitude of working together as a Team, produce excellent results for customers.

With these dynamics, we can bring technology and services to provide:

- relief to customers frustrated with high energy costs
- liberation for customers consumed with large losses of assets and materials
- deliverance for customers worried about the safety of their Team Members

All of these items ultimately provide customers with increased profitability and productivity.

How can we accomplish these objectives? Our company performs Design Assistance related to Energy Cost Reduction opportunities and Integrated Security Building Solutions in order to lower customer costs of operation or increase customer revenues by making their facilities more attractive.

To learn more about our capabilities just browse through our web site or contact us either by phone (800) 567-1180 or by [e-mail](mailto:).

**WATCH THIS VIDEO OF Gun Shot Detection: <https://youtu.be/DwUp0zkt3Ss>**

Your company's emergency plan should involve a security system that automatically detects whether the noise was really a gunshot, where the noise originated, and alerts the authorities—less than one minute after the gunshot.

Shooter Detection Systems will take the difficulty out of your assessment. The sensors in the system let those in the office know a shooter is active in the building – at that moment. Using both sound and infrared detection make false positives less likely, which helps to more quickly assess that a shooter is, indeed, active in the building.

## IN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT EVERY SECOND COUNTS

**12.5 Minutes:** Average duration of an active shooter incident

**18 Minutes:** Average response time of emergency response/law enforcement

**Fact:** In the majority of active shooter incidents, emergency response time greatly exceeded the incident duration – could not stop the shooter or prevent further deaths or injuries. decreased response time, and incident duration yields a reduction of deaths and injuries



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## Ballistic doors and smoke cannons: Firms sell school 'hardening' as mass shooting solution

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-school-mass-shooting-security-20181002-story.html>

**Reese Dunklin and Jusin Pritchard** Associated Press

Security companies spent years pushing schools to buy more products — from "ballistic attack-resistant" doors to smoke cannons that spew haze from ceilings to confuse a shooter. But sales were slow, and industry's campaign to free up taxpayer money for upgrades had stalled.

That changed last February, when a former student shot and killed 17 people at a Florida high school. Publicly, the rampage reignited the U.S. gun-control debate. Privately, it propelled industry efforts to sell school fortification as the answer to the mass killing of American kids.

Since that attack, security firms and nonprofit groups linked to the industry have persuaded lawmakers to elevate the often-costly "hardening" of schools over other measures that researchers and educators say are proven to reduce violence, an Associated Press investigation shows.

The industry helped Congress draft a law that committed \$350 million to equipment and other school security over the next decade. Nearly 20 states have come up with another \$450 million, and local school districts are reworking budgets to find more money.

Most everyone agrees that schools can be more secure with layers of protection, such as perimeter fencing, limited entrances and hiding spaces inside classrooms.

But there's no independent research supporting claims that much of the high-tech hardware and gadgets schools are buying will save lives, according to two 2016 reports prepared for the U.S. Justice Department. As

with high-profile shootings in the past, that has not stopped industry representatives from rushing in, some misusing statistics on school violence to stoke fears that "soft target" schools could be victims of terrorist attacks or negligence lawsuits.

"School safety is the Wild, Wild West," said Mason Wooldridge, a security consultant who helps school districts assess their vulnerabilities. "Any company can claim anything they want."

Wooldridge knows from experience. Several years ago, he helped outfit an Indiana high school with a \$500,000 security system that includes smoke cannons. Now out of sales, he says a school that wanted a system with the same level of security could get it for about \$100,000, using less expensive but equally effective equipment.

Many proponents of hardening a school like an airport or police station have backgrounds in law enforcement or the military. Some have little experience or qualification. The Ohio man dubbed "[Joe the Plumber](#)" during the 2008 presidential campaign has been appearing on school safety conference panels to hawk a cheaper lockdown alternative.

Educators worry that hardening will siphon focus and money from programs that prevent bullying and counsel at-risk kids. Students have reported in government surveys that visible security measures like metal detectors and armed officers make them feel less safe.

Industry representatives say they support other solutions to preventing school gun deaths, but insist hardening hasn't gotten the chance it deserves.

"There really needs to be a change in thinking that recognizes security is a primary need in schools," said Jake Parker, director of government relations for the Security Industry Association, which has been central to the hardening effort. Also, he acknowledged, "The more schools protect themselves, the better it is for industry."

Revenue for school security companies would grow even more than analysts project if the industry succeeds in plans to craft state legislation that would set minimum standards for campus equipment purchases.

There are no widely accepted, independent standards for school building security, as there are for the plumbing, fire protection systems and even athletic bleachers on campus. To fill that void, security companies have promoted their own takes on what "best practices" for school security should be. At least one state has turned such standards into law.

Industry-written guidelines set a steep price for cash-strapped districts. According to a nonprofit group formed by a major lock manufacturer, for example, upgrading an elementary school with basic security equipment costs at least \$94,000 and a high school at least \$170,000. If all the nation's public schools were to follow those guidelines, the cost would total at least \$11 billion, according to industry calculations.

Hardening advocates acknowledge that mass upgrades would not eliminate shootings. Many shooters are students whose familiarity with a school's layout and security could help them outsmart even elaborate safeguards.

Low-tech solutions may also work just as well. Leaders at one school district in New Jersey heard a vendor's pitch for classroom doors that lock automatically and simply mandated that teachers lock their doors during class, saving several hundred thousand dollars.

"If we're just expecting technology to solve all these problems, I think we're going to fall short," said Ronald Stephens, executive director of the California-based National School Safety Center, created originally as a federal program under the Reagan administration. "And we may not like the climate we create."

### **'EXTREMELY SOFT TARGETS'**

Max Schachter was grieving the loss of his son, Alex, and became enraged when he learned of the successive failures at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in [Parkland](#), Florida.

School counselors and law enforcement had received warnings about the shooter's worrisome behavior. His bullets shattered standard-issue classroom door windows, providing access to victims such as Alex, as the school's only armed safety officer hid.

With one child still enrolled and a middle schooler on the way, Schachter searched for ways to make Stoneman Douglas High safer. He found Southwestern Junior-Senior High School in Shelbyville, Indiana. The campus had become known as the "Safest School in America" after the \$500,000 retrofit that Wooldridge helped install for his step-father's firm, NetTalon Security Systems.

The Indiana Sheriff's Association, an early backer of NetTalon's safety package, arranged a private tour. Schachter returned to Florida impressed. Putting his life insurance career on hold, he has fast become a leading school safety activist and important ally of the hardening movement.

"After 9/11, we hardened the cockpits and the airports," Schachter testified during a hearing of the Federal Commission on School Safety created by President [Donald Trump](#) after Parkland. "The reasons these monsters are still attacking our schools is because they're extremely soft targets."

As horrific as they are, shooting rampages in America's 122,000 public and private elementary and secondary schools are uncommon, though more prevalent than elsewhere in the world.

An AP analysis of FBI statistics showed 35 active shootings at elementary, middle or high schools, resulting in the deaths of 61 students and staff members, from 2000 to 2017, the last year included by the FBI. AP's analysis shows that active shootings, defined by the FBI as a gunman trying to kill in a confined and populated area, had not appreciably increased at schools during that time. But in the first five months of this year, two major shootings — in Parkland, Florida, and at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas — left 27 students or staffers dead.

In making a case for hardening, proponents have asserted big increases in school gun violence in recent years. Some have done so by including mass shootings that happened any place, not just those at schools. Others used data that included incidents at schools that weren't attacks on students or employees, but were instead accidental discharges, suicides or community violence that spilled onto campus, sometimes after hours.

Many experts say that schools remain among the safest places for children. Rob Evans, a retired state police captain who is the Vermont education agency's school safety liaison, calls school shootings "low-probability events" and noted kids are more likely to die in other ways — including, data show, crossing a street. But the horror of shootings jolts public policy, and schools race to show a nervous public they're taking action.

"We've got to take the passion out of it," Evans said. "If we're going to spend a dollar, let's spend a smart dollar."

Education security revenue in the U.S. was about \$2.5 billion in 2017, approximately 60 percent generated by elementary and secondary schools, according to the research firm IHS Markit. The firm had projected anemic growth for several years but, after Parkland, revised its forecast to \$3 billion by 2019.

The flow of money has created opportunities for businesses new to school security.

"Joe the Plumber" Wurzelbacher is working with a company that incorporated two months after Parkland to sell a \$139.99 "SwiftShield" that slides around a classroom door handle so a shooter cannot enter.

The company began sponsoring panels at school security conferences that featured the one-time political star. Wurzelbacher acknowledged skepticism at those conferences but said his concern is genuine: His adult son is a teacher, and he has three children ages 5 and under.

The SwiftShield barricade device, invented by a roofer, offers schools "unparalleled" safety, the company claims. It sells for one-twentieth the cost of some bullet-resistant doors or high-tech locking systems — and about 200 districts have expressed interest, Wurzelbacher said. Companies selling higher-priced security alternatives are protecting their turf when they argue barricade-style devices violate safety codes in many states, he said.

"There's going to be a lot of money to be made here," Wurzelbacher said. "I think there's a lot of people who are offering school systems an illusion of security, as opposed to real security."

Some educators fear that increased spending on school fortifications will lead to cuts to programs that involve human intervention, such as mental health care.

Campuses are safer when students feel comfortable reporting suspicious behavior and staff are trained in deciphering whether that behavior is dangerous, according to school psychologists like Tricia Daniel. Armoring schools like fortresses can make students feel like they are serving a sentence, she said, not getting an education.

"None of what works involves sound-bite solutions, the purchase of a single program or security system, and quite frankly the overhardening of our schools," Daniel, who was inside a middle school in her Alabama district during a deadly 2010 shooting, told the federal safety commission.

The National Association of School Psychologists and dozens of other organizations endorsed a "call to action" after Parkland that advocated greater mental health services and a ban on assault-style weapons. The federal commission has shown more interest in fortifying buildings than in keeping guns away from students.

Schachter, the Parkland father, hopes the commission will adopt national hardening standards that he has been developing with the security industry and law enforcement.

In August, Schachter met privately with the four Cabinet secretaries on the commission. Then, in public testimony later that day, he praised the system in Indiana's "Safest School," saying it overcame the five central challenges in shootings: Authorities are immediately notified, ballistic-hardened doors shield classrooms, video cameras let law enforcement assess the scene, teachers can share real-time updates, and smoke cannons disrupt the shooter.

Those are the same talking points that NetTalon, the company that developed the system, and its law enforcement allies have used for years.

In an interview, Schachter repeated those points and objected when asked whether he knew of any research showing that hardening was the most effective security approach.

"I don't think I need research," he said, "to show me we need to do something differently."

#### **NATIONAL PLAYER**

The man behind the "Safest School" is a former Army Ranger who has worked for a decade to turn his privately held company of fewer than a dozen employees into a national school security player.

Donald R. Jones Jr. says the ambushes he survived in Vietnam inform his approach, and he clocks the carnage as a school shooting unfolds. The first 911 call takes a few minutes. Police won't arrive for several more minutes, longer in rural America. If the attacker has easy access to kids, he says, it will be a massacre. Like others in industry and some politicians, he cites global terror as a concern.

"What if the attackers are two ISIS guys?" asks Jones, one of NetTalon's co-founders and now its president. "What if he shoots the classroom then throws a Molotov cocktail in the classroom and everybody dies of smoke inhalation or burns to death? We are just an event away from 100 or more kids being killed."

When Virginia-based NetTalon started 20 years ago, its focus was on sensors, cameras and floor plans that helped first responders monitor buildings for intruders or fires. After the 2007 shooting at [Virginia Tech University](#), NetTalon rebranded its system for campus security.

A rare buyer was a district in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which reportedly spent \$75,000 to create a subset of well-protected classrooms at McKinley Middle Magnet School. The system reduced "casualties" during a 2008 simulated attack, then-principal Herman Brister said. But in hindsight, he told AP, he would've preferred using the money to hire an armed resource officer.

Jones blamed poor sales on a bad economy, and the company's attention turned to fire and security monitoring systems in the Middle East.

It again focused on schools after the 2012 attack at [Sandy Hook Elementary](#) in Connecticut.

NetTalon teamed up with the Indiana Sheriff's Association — adding some security features at the group's suggestion — and the system went live at Southwestern Junior-Senior High for the 2014 school year. The company absorbed nearly all the cost, with the district and state sharing the remainder. Not long after, officials with the [National Rifle Association](#) visited, and NBC featured it on a national broadcast.

Next up would be a lobbying effort to help NetTalon expand the "Safest School" model across the state. In 2016, while Vice President Mike Pence was Indiana's governor, NetTalon and the Sheriff's Association helped write into law minimum school security standards that prioritize hardening.

The effort was guided in part by Mason Wooldridge, the step-son of Jones, through a school safety nonprofit he had formed. But when questioned in a legislative hearing about whether he stood to receive "financial gain" from the legislation, Wooldridge did not acknowledge his family ties to NetTalon — or that he and Jones were named on a patent application for the system.

Wooldridge told AP that he had left NetTalon by then because of business disagreements, including the cost of its security system, and is unsure he's entitled to profits based on the patent.

Wooldridge said he didn't like having his integrity doubted and prefers working directly for schools on safety because he doesn't have to "promote fear as the basis for a bottom line."

"If you stay in that world," he said of security sales, "you are a beneficiary of tragedy."

NetTalon's allies at the Sheriff's Association helped craft guidelines that the new law required Indiana's Department of Homeland Security to publish. The guidelines recommended an internet-based emergency response system like the "Safest School" and even mentioned "countermeasures" to disrupt an attacker, though not specifically smoke cannons, which some experts warn might also disorient students and police.

But the law made the standards voluntary and provided no funding. As with NetTalon's first foray into schools, districts passed. To some, Wooldridge said, the system was not just expensive but also excessive. Ballistic doors NetTalon made cost \$3,900 each, he said, but solid wood core or metal doors selling for hundreds of dollars would also protect classrooms.

Mike Kersey, a sheriff's commander in Indiana who advised NetTalon, said the system's price isn't as shocking when paid in installments over time.

"It's amazing to me sometimes that we can find \$4 million to put in a football field," Kersey said, "but then we can't find a few hundred thousand to augment our schools and make them safer for kids."

Jones acknowledged that his investors "would like to see a return on their money," but said his insistence on selling an entire security system over individual products hasn't been lucrative.

It wasn't until early 2018 that NetTalon secured another school contract, worth around \$1 million, with a rural district in Indiana. In the interim, the company faced lawsuits from a consultant and an investor claiming about \$1.3 million in unpaid debts, records show.

Then Parkland happened. Within a month, Jones was invited to a school safety meeting that Schachter organized. Indiana's attorney general bragged about the "Safest School" while seated next to Trump during a White House meeting. An Indiana congressman introduced federal legislation to help fund similar security systems.

Jones knows from experience that a new contract may be the exception, unless he can help schools get funding. He said legislation planned for 2019 in Indiana would let local districts vote to create fees to fund upgrades.

Such financing would remove the final obstacle to schools implementing the safety program his company helped develop, he said, and those that didn't act would risk lawsuits.

"In other words, if there is a publicly known higher standard of care and you have done nothing to move to that standard of care and you have a massacre," Jones said, "you're negligent."

#### **'THOUGHT LEADERS'**

In a New Orleans hotel ballroom, the nonprofit Secure Schools Alliance and its panelists laid out the case for hardening schools to lawmakers and business leaders attending the American Legislative Exchange Council's August conference.

The nonprofit had worked many months — and paid thousands of dollars, its executive director told AP — to make its pitch. And the reception was encouraging.

The U.S. Education Department's deputy secretary promised to treat the group's recommendations as "best practices." And ALEC, a conservative organization known for shaping public policy in states, endorsed the nonprofit's platform as the model for future state legislation.

What was left unsaid: The Secure Schools Alliance was created and funded by Allegion plc, a \$2.4 billion publicly traded corporation that runs its U.S. business from Indiana and specializes in locks, doors and entry systems.

Like NetTalon, Allegion has positioned itself among the school security industry's "thought leaders." Allegion has worked through the Security Industry Association lobby group, in addition to the Secure Schools nonprofit, to get public dollars for hardening and push equipment recommendations for schools nationwide.

Allegion's efforts date to 2014, after it embarked on a school sales campaign, offering free security assessments and updating its product line. The executive overseeing its U.S. business, Tim Eckersley, said its new classroom door lock — triggered by a wireless remote worn around a teacher's neck and costing between \$700 and \$1,200 — was a product "this market needs to drive growth."

But school spending lagged amid tight government funding, executives said in earnings calls. Less expensive door barricade devices were also gaining popularity. Eckersley later lamented that schools' motivation for updating technology waned as time passed without a massacre like Sandy Hook.

"We can't afford to wait until the next tragedy to do something," Eckersley, who works at Ireland-based Allegion's U.S. headquarters, implored in a news release.

Allegion formed the Secure Schools Alliance with a mission of "launching a national conversation" about school safety. Its job posting for an executive director was more specific. Priorities included influencing state policy, meeting with legislators, addressing conferences and creating best practices.

Allegion's public affairs director, Maria Pia Tamburri, serves as the nonprofit's board president. Allegion has also given the nonprofit between about \$100,000 and \$200,000 annually over the last four years — virtually all its revenue since it was founded, according to records and interviews.

**We've got to take the passion out of it. If we're going to spend a dollar, let's spend a smart dollar.— Rob Evans, retired Vermont State Police captain**

In two years of tax returns the nonprofit provided to AP, Secure Schools didn't say Allegion was its creator. Nor do the nonprofit's website or written materials make that relationship clear.

Tamburri has cited a moral obligation to promote school safety and told AP that business was not a factor in Allegion forming the nonprofit.

"Allegion founded the alliance because it's the right thing to do and our people are passionate about school security," she wrote in an email.

Robert Boyd, a former congressional chief of staff and Delaware school official, became the nonprofit's executive director in 2015. Boyd said he understands that the nonprofit's corporate ties might cause skepticism, but Allegion doesn't expect a "return on investment" from funding it. He added that he supports other safety solutions, as well.

"This notion that the Alliance is out here as some patsy doing the bidding of corporate sponsors," Boyd said, "is just absurd."

Kenneth Trump, a former school administrator in Ohio who runs a training and security assessments firm, isn't so sure.

"It basically comes down to Allegion, with a few others trailing behind them, setting the standards," said Trump, who is not related to the president. He doesn't believe that standards should be written by a "private business influencing legislators and changing laws and regulations, which, by no coincidence, benefits their bottom line."

Allegion was also instrumental in creating a school security caucus in Congress. At the caucus' 2016 launch event, two of the founding members — Rep. [Susan Brooks](#), R-Indiana, and Rep. [Rick Larsen](#), D-Washington —

announced a bill to reauthorize a federal spending program for school infrastructure that had averaged about \$15 million annually before lapsing in 2011.

The push for new funding didn't get far — until the [Parkland shooting](#). In a matter of weeks, the Senate and House passed legislation committing more money to security hardware, for more years, than industry had sought.

The Secure Schools nonprofit helped draft the legislation, Boyd said, including language that required product purchases be based on best practices, such as those developed by industry. In March, Trump signed the STOP School Violence Act, authorizing about \$350 million for equipment and other security over a decade.

Boyd said the nonprofit and its allies also have met with deputy education secretary Mick Zais, who spoke in New Orleans, about letting schools make security purchases through a \$1.1 billion program designed largely for academic enrichment programs.

Beyond money, the nonprofit has focused on getting industry-created best practices and equipment guidelines adopted nationwide. Boyd is working with groups that write building and safety codes, and with ALEC as a co-chairman of its homeland security task force. He said ALEC would soon develop model state legislation that members could introduce next year.

Allegion executives, meanwhile, have become upbeat during earnings calls.

In the months following Parkland, CEO David Petratis told financial analysts that the company had been working to "drive recognition of school security infrastructure needs" with government officials and expected business to be "extremely profitable for us going forward."

*Dunklin reported from Dallas and New Orleans. Pritchard reported from Los Angeles.*

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## **Door Locking Devices and School Shootings: No Simple Answers**

<https://safehavensinternational.org/door-locking-devices-and-school-shootings-no-simple-answers/>

FEBRUARY 22, 2018 BY **CHRIS DORN**

Mass casualty school shootings are neither a new phenomenon nor a problem unique to American schools. We do need to improve safety, security and emergency preparedness. At the same time, we must remember to use evidence-based practices focused on addressing real risk. For example, over the past several years we have seen numerous lockdown, barricade, and door locking devices enter the market. Since the Parkland shooting last week we have seen a new device invented by a high school student — the "JustinKase" — go viral.

*Over the past several years a number of dangerous tactics and equipment have been suggested, including one politician's recommendation that students carry canned food to keep under their desk as a weapon against gunmen.*

### **Door Locking Devices and Barricade Tools**

Like programs that teach students to throw books and other objects at a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle, many of these door locking devices are well intended. One major drawback is that many of these devices are also very costly. Education budgets are already stretched too thin to waste tens of thousands of dollars if it is not justified. In many cases, lockdown devices are not needed if building equipment is used properly. While many schools do have older door hardware, most schools built within the last 10 to 20 years that are still in good condition would not need a lockdown device or door barricade device to rapidly protect classroom occupants from a threat in the hallway or outside the school.

Like many devices we see, it appears that the JustinKase device would likely violate fire codes because it cannot be easily manipulated with one hand to exit and because it would delay egress. It also appears that the JustinKase could even be used as a bludgeon.

We are more concerned that the device does not appear to have a way for school officials or first responders to bypass it. This would make it easy for a student or visitor to trap a staff member, or other students, in a room

and attack or sexually assault them while preventing rescuers from entering the room (these types of events are far more common than active shooters). A similar concern is that other types of assaults have occurred when attackers locked out help. In one case we worked, a school registrar was beaten into a coma by a 67-year-old woman who first locked the office door from the inside.

Some barricade lockdown devices do allow entry to the room with a proprietary key. However, from our experience working Active Shooter cases, rapid response teams may not be able to wait for these during a fast-breaking incident. They may, in turn, need to resort to extreme measures to breach the room. In the Arapahoe High School shooting in 2013, some doors had to be cut open using a blowtorch because there were not enough master keys readily available. If you use a barricade device, you should have a very reliable system for staff and law enforcement to obtain rescue keys rapidly.

Any lockdown device should be reviewed by your Fire Marshall first to make sure it will not violate fire code. Some devices delay egress or might make escape impossible for some building occupants. One device that is particularly concerning when used in schools is a metal device that goes over the door closer arm, preventing it from opening. This would be difficult or impossible for first responders to breach and many students (and some staff) would be too short to remove it from the door arm, thus preventing egress. Additionally, a person in a wheelchair or with other physical limitations would not be able to operate or remove the device. For more on avoiding lockdown device letdowns, read our [October 2016 newsletter: "Improving School Lockdowns"](#).

Unless your school already has leading-practice student threat evaluation and management and suicide prevention teams, you are more likely to have an attack and to be successfully sued for failure to meet the standard of care. This is even more true if funding was used on these types of devices.

### **School Violence is Not New and U.S. Schools are Actually Safer Now Than in Decades Past**

We continually hear about the days when mass casualty school attacks did not happen. On the contrary, U.S. history provides many examples of horrific attacks from colonial times to the present. School shootings predate the Civil war. The first mass casualty American school shooting was in 1891 when five students were shot in a Newburgh, New York parochial school. The 24/7 news cycle and the internet make us painfully and almost instantly aware of incidents that previously would not receive national attention.

As with child molestation and drunk driving, today we are far more aware of homicides in K12 schools than we were in decades past. In fact, the homicide rate has continually decreased. For example, the two most deadly attacks in American schools both occurred more than 50 years ago:

- 1958: A troubled elementary child kills 95 students and staff with a book of matches at the Our Lady of Angels Sacred Hearts school in Chicago.
- 1927: A school board member carries out a deadly shooting and bombing of the Bath School in Michigan, killing more than 40 students, staff and town officials.

There is no region of the world that has not been touched by school violence. Attackers have used firearms, knives, gasoline, swords, clubs, hatchets, explosives, a homemade flamethrower and other weapons to carry out mass casualty school attacks around the globe as far back as 1764. China has had attacks where dozens have been killed by a single attacker with a knife.

### **Focus on Proven Solutions Rather Than Knee-Jerk Responses**

Though pundits, special interest groups, vendors, elected officials and individuals with the very best of intention suggest an array of simple solutions, there are actually no examples of the elimination of mass casualty weapons violence. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the fact that many planned school shootings are successfully averted for every successfully carried out attack. Just a day before the Parkland attack, an even more terrifying [attack plan was thwarted in Washington State](#) along with [many other potential acts of K12 violence across the country](#).

There are no simple answers or 100% effective approaches to prevent school shootings. There *are* approaches that have been used to successfully avert hundreds of planned school shootings. Working in this field for decades, it is frustrating to see a school ignore proven measures that have prevented deadly

school shootings and bombings for decades. While door locking devices may be useful or even necessary in some schools, other types of threats are more common. As we look at our active shooter response measures, we stay vigilant on student threat assessment and management, behavioral training approaches and suicide prevention. When schools engage in theoretical approaches that are not validated, it creates a serious risk to our students and those who educate them.

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## **Armored school doors, bulletproof whiteboards and secret snipers**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/school-shootings-and-campus-safety-industry/?utm\\_term=.81464e68404d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/school-shootings-and-campus-safety-industry/?utm_term=.81464e68404d)

### **Billions are being spent to protect children from school shootings. Does any of it work?**

The company that sells these bulletproof doors to schools says that several they've talked to are “extremely interested.” (Cassi Alexandra for The Washington Post)

By [John Woodrow Cox](#) and [Steven Richin Orlando](#)

Nov. 13, 2018

The expo had finally begun, and now hundreds of school administrators streamed into a sprawling, chandeliered ballroom where entrepreneurs awaited, each eager to explain why their product, above all others, was the one worth buying.

Waiters in white button-downs poured glasses of chardonnay and served meatballs wrapped with bacon. In one corner, guests posed with colorful boas and silly hats at a photo booth as a band played Jimmy Buffett covers to the rhythm of a steel drum. For a moment, the festive summer scene, in a hotel 10 miles from Walt Disney World, masked what had brought them all there.

This was the thriving business of campus safety, an industry fueled by an overwhelmingly American form of violence: school shootings.

At one booth, two gray-haired men were selling a 300-pound ballistic whiteboard — adorned with adorable animal illustrations and pocked with five bullet holes — that cost more than \$2,900.

“What we want to do is just to give the kids, the teachers, a chance,” one of them said.

“So they can buy a few minutes,” the other added.

Elsewhere at the July conference, vendors peddled tourniquets and pepper-ball guns, facial-recognition software and a security proposal that would turn former Special Operations officers into undercover teachers. Threaded into every pitch, just five months after a Parkland, Fla., massacre, was the implication that their product or service would make students safer — that, if purchased, it might save a life.

What few of the salespeople could offer, however, was proof.

Although school security has grown into a \$2.7 billion market — an estimate that does not account for the billions more spent on armed campus police officers — little research has been done on which safety measures do and do not protect students from gun violence. Earlier this fall, The Washington Post sent surveys to every school in its database that had endured a shooting of some kind since the 2012 killings of 20 first-graders in Newtown, Conn., which prompted a surge of security spending by districts across the country.

Superintendent Randy Russell checks camera feeds at Freeman High School in Rockford, Wash., which spent about \$200,000 on new security after a deadly shooting last year. (Rajah Bose/For The Washington Post)

Of the 79 schools contacted, 34 provided answers, including Sandy Hook Elementary. Their responses to questions about what they learned — some brief but many rich in detail — provide valuable insight from administrators in urban, suburban and rural districts who, as a group, have faced the full spectrum of campus gun violence: targeted, indiscriminate, accidental and self-inflicted.

When asked what, if anything, could have prevented the shootings at their schools, nearly half replied that there was nothing they could have done. Several, however, emphasized the critical importance of their staffs developing deep, trusting relationships with students, who often hear about threats before teachers do.

Only one school suggested that any kind of safety technology might have made a difference. Many had robust security plans already in place but still couldn't stop the incidents.

In 2016, Utah's Union Middle School had a surveillance system, external doors that could be accessed only with IDs and an armed policewoman, known as a resource officer, when a 14-year-old boy shot another student twice in the head during a confrontation outside the building just after classes ended.

"Even if we would have had metal detectors, it would not have mattered," wrote Jeffrey P. Haney, district spokesman. "If we would have had armed guards at the entrance of the school, it would not have mattered. If we would have required students to have see-through backpacks and bags, it would not have mattered."

Excerpts from Union Middle School's survey responses

### **What did you learn from the shooting?**

"We believe all students should feel welcome in our schools. Our principals, counselors, psychologists, and teachers are working hard to make sure each school has a positive and inviting environment. Starting this year, a school psychologist and/or social worker has been assigned to every Canyons District school to support faculty and staff in reinforcing positive behavior and creating a culture of inclusivity."

### **Sandy, Utah**

On Oct. 25, 2016, a 14-year-old boy shot an older teen twice in the head during an after-school confrontation. The following responses were provided by Canyons School District Spokesman Jeffrey P. Haney.

What type of drills, if any, had the school done before the shooting (classic lockdown, active-shooter, ALICE or something else), and how often had they been practiced?

"Union Middle, an 830-student school of sixth, seventh and eighth graders, has completed at least four emergency-preparedness drills a year since 2009.... The school conducted a drill for a 'lockdown,' which is called when there is a direct threat to campus, on Sept. 21, 2016, roughly one month before the traumatic incident on campus."

What other types of safety measures, if any, did the school have in place before the shooting (metal detectors, SROs, special door locks, pepper spray, armed teachers, etc.)?

"Union Middle, built in 1968, has been retrofitted with security measures such as a surveillance system, ID-access-only external doors, and the presence of a certified and armed School Resource Officer whose salary is co-funded by Canyons School District. In addition, the school conducted regular safety drills."

### **Did students and staff follow the drilling procedures they'd practiced?**

"Yes. The students followed the directions of the administrators, counselors and teachers who responded to the incident. The students were immediately shepherded into classrooms and warned to take cover away from windows and doors until told otherwise. After students were safely inside the building, the doors were locked to safeguard those inside the school from external threats."

### **What ultimately ended the shooting?**

"A teacher who had been assigned to after-school duty was the first on the scene after she started walking toward a group of students who were gathering as if they were going to watch a fight. She heard a sound, and then began running toward the group of students. As she ran, she saw a student with a weapon. Some students yelled, 'This is a prank,' but as she approached, she realized that one student was severely injured. At that point, the boy with the handgun slumped to the ground."

In retrospect, what — if anything — do you believe could have been done to stop the shooting from happening at all?

"At this point, we're focusing on preparation. Students and teachers must know how to respond to all kinds of emergency situations. Yes, it's unfortunate, but that's where we are. We operate under the assumption that tragedy can strike anywhere, if someone is determined to cause damage."

### **What safety measures were put in place after the shooting?**

“Canyons District this year... is giving all teachers access to a mobile app called DIR-S, which provides the ability to immediately alert authorities to any incident that is happening in their sections of the school. The District is redoubling efforts to train students to use a mobile app called SafeUT, an all-day and all-night link to administrators and licensed counselors at the University of Utah.”

### **What did you learn from the shooting?**

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### **Sandy, Utah**

On Oct. 25, 2016, a 14-year-old boy shot an older teen twice in the head during an after-school confrontation. The following responses were provided by Canyons School District Spokesman Jeffrey P. Haney.

The survey responses are consistent with a federally funded 2016 study by Johns Hopkins University that concluded there was “limited and conflicting evidence in the literature on the short- and long-term effectiveness of school safety technology.”

The schools that have experienced gun violence consistently cited simple, well-established safety measures as most effective at minimizing harm: drills that teach rapid lockdown and evacuation strategies, doors that can be secured in seconds and resource officers, or other adults, who act quickly.

But fear has long dictated what schools invest in, and although campus shootings remain extremely rare, many superintendents are under intense pressure from parents to do something — anything — to make their kids safer. It was the nation’s renewed anxiety, after 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in February, that had drawn so many administrators to the National School Safety Conference at the Florida hotel, 200 miles north of Parkland.

People wait to hear from students after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in February. (Amy Beth Bennett/South Florida Sun-Sentinel/AP)

Also there, hoping to capture some piece of the new spending, were 105 vendors, an all-time high for the expo and a 75 percent increase over the previous year.

“This is our first school conference that we’ve ever done,” said SAM Medical sales director Denise Ehlert, who, at one point that evening, knelt down and encouraged a 6-year-old girl to tighten a tourniquet on a woman’s arm as a way to demonstrate that anyone could do it.

“This is brand new. . . . This is our first show,” said Paul Noe, who had come to sell a high-tech, armored classroom door that, for the price of \$4,000, he claimed could stop bullets, identify the weapon, photograph the shooter and notify police. The bright yellow one they’d put on display had been shot 57 times.

Bullets stopped by this armored classroom door, which costs up to \$4,000, are marked by the style and caliber of the weapon that fired them. (Cassi Alexandra/For The Washington Post)

“We just released it in the past couple of months to be available to schools, and we’ve been obviously overwhelmed with interest,” said Monte Scott, who sells guns that fire balls packed with a potent pepper mixture meant to disable a shooter. Scott had just returned from training U.S. troops in Afghanistan on how to use the weapons in a combat zone.

Echoing a frequent refrain at the expo, Justin Kuhn said his own children, not money, led him to found his company, which produces an elaborate door-security and weapons-detection system.

Although Kuhn, who had previously invented a scraper blade and a car wax, acknowledged he didn’t know whether his new product would have stopped the attack at Stoneman Douglas, he had still tried to leverage the bloodshed. Standing next to his company’s 2,500-pound aluminum-framed vestibule, he recalled a meeting in Indiana with one district’s head of school safety who had noted that the price tag for Kuhn’s entire system seemed steep.

“If you think \$500,000 is expensive, go down to Parkland, Florida, and tell 17 people \$500,000 is expensive. That’s \$29,000 a kid,” Kuhn recalled saying. “Every person would pay \$29,000 a kid to have their kid alive.”

**Freeman High upgraded its cameras to high definition after last year’s shooting. (Rajah Bose/For The Washington Post)**

By this spring, Huffman High in Birmingham, Ala., had, in security parlance, been “hardened,” a term that in recent years has migrated from anti-terrorism circles to school board meetings. Surveillance cameras were mounted inside and out, and Huffman’s 1,370 students were periodically checked for weapons, both with handheld and walk-through metal detectors, administrators say. Three resource officers patrolled the hallways.

But none of those measures saved the life of Courtlin Arrington, a senior who was about to leave school one afternoon in March when a boy showing off a handgun unintentionally fired it, sending a round through the girl’s chest two months before her graduation.

How the weapon got into Huffman remains unclear — Arrington’s family has sued the district, limiting what administrators can say — but the incident highlights a theme that appears throughout the survey responses: No amount of investment in security can guarantee a school protection from gun violence.

Related story [More than 215,000 students have experienced gun violence at school since Columbine.](#)

Much of what can be done to prevent harm is beyond any school’s control because, in a country with more guns — [nearly 400 million](#) — than people, children are at risk of being shot no matter where they are. A [2016 study](#) in the American Journal of Medicine found that, among high-income nations, 91 percent of children younger than 15 who were killed by gunfire lived in the United States.

But several administrators did point to specific steps that at least contained the attacks on their schools.

At Florida’s Forest High in April, for example, teachers and teens who had undergone safety training locked classroom doors and barricaded them with chairs and desks just seconds after realizing that a man with a shotgun was in the hallway. He fired through one door and wounded a student but surrendered shortly after failing to get inside.

A month later, at Dixon High in Illinois, resource officer Mark Dallas heard shots near the school gym, rushed toward the noise and in, an exchange of gunfire, struck the shooter, who was quickly arrested.

**Increased spending on school resource officers**

After the February shooting in Parkland, many school districts in Florida sharply increased the amount they spent per school year for armed officers.

Sources: Data provided by school districts and compiled by The Post

**THE WASHINGTON POST**

Seven of the 23 surveyed schools that had officers at the time of their shootings indicated that they played a direct role in limiting the harm done. Still, what Dallas did is exceedingly rare. The Post’s analysis identified just one other case over the past 19 years in which a resource officer gunned down an active shooter. (To put that in perspective, at least seven shootings in the same period were halted by malfunctioning weapons or by the gunman’s inability to handle them.)

While the mere presence of the officers may deter some gun violence, The Post found that, in dozens of cases, it didn’t: Among the more than 225 incidents on campuses since 1999, at least 40 percent of the affected schools employed an officer.

Beyond armed security or any other particular safety measure, survey respondents emphasized that nothing was more important to minimizing the violence than preparation.

Last November, staff at Rancho Tehama Elementary, a school in rural Northern California, heard what sounded like gunshots and hustled the children outside into the building. All students and staff had locked down, something they regularly practiced, 48 seconds after a secretary called for it — and just 10 seconds before a man with an AR-15-style rifle reached the quad. The gunman, who had already killed five people during his rampage, fired more than 100 rounds, shattering glass and tearing holes in walls.

He tried to enter classrooms and the main office, but all were secured. Six minutes after arriving, he gave up and left, taking his own life a short time later. One student, age 6, was wounded but survived.

Excerpts from Rancho Tehama Elementary School's survey responses

**What did you learn from the shooting?**

"We are largely powerless from determined shooters with high-capacity, high-velocity, semiautomatic assault rifles. Bullets from a 5.56 mm rifle easily penetrated sealed windows, doors, cabinets and walls. But lockdowns can save lives."

**Corning, California**

On Nov. 14, 2017, a 44-year-old man with a 'homemade' AR-15-style rifle went on a lengthy shooting rampage in Northern California and, after arriving at the school, fired more than 100 shots, wounding a 6-year-old boy who was hiding inside one building. The following responses were provided by Corning Union Elementary School District Superintendent Richard Fitzpatrick.

What type of drills, if any, had the school done before the shooting (classic lockdown, active-shooter, ALICE or something else), and how often had they been practiced?

"Since Sandy Hook, the district has conducted lockdown drills regularly... It should be noted that these drills were done with consistent behaviors and language, regardless of the perceived threat. They also varied based on the location of the threat.... Crucial to the survival of our students in the shooting, any adult employee is empowered to trigger a lock-down."

What other types of safety measures, if any, did the school have in place before the shooting (metal detectors, SROs, special door locks, pepper spray, armed teachers, etc.)?

"All schools in the district were equipped with 'lock blocks.' These devices allow keyless locking from inside in less than a second. All playground aides and office staff also had walkie-talkies, which were utilized during the shooting."

**Did students and staff follow the drilling procedures they'd practiced?**

"Flawlessly. The campus was completely locked down within 48 seconds of it being called."

What ultimately ended the shooting?

"After firing over a hundred rounds of 5.56 mm at the buildings, the shooter became frustrated by his inability to gain access to the school. He left and, some minutes later when confronted by law enforcement, took his own life."

**Did any of the safety measures specifically work — meaning, they kept students safe from harm — and if so, which ones?**

"Yes. Lockdown and lock-blocks prevented any loss of life. One kindergarten student was shot through a building wall in the chest and foot. He recovered. There were no other injuries on campus, despite six fatalities in the incident in other areas of the town."

In retrospect, what — if anything — do you believe could have been done to stop the shooting from happening at all?

"Sensible gun control. The shooter had an AR rifle which he purchased online in parts. A 'ghost' gun. He was prohibited by the courts from owning or possessing firearms."

**What safety measures were put in place after the shooting?**

"The shooter rammed a locked gate to gain entry to the school. His truck was stuck in the gate, delaying his ability to access the school quad. This allowed the valuable seconds to complete the process. A six-foot wrought iron fence was installed in the front of the school, which previously had a three-foot fence. An armed security guard is now present at the school during all school hours."

**What did you learn from the shooting?**

"We are largely powerless from determined shooters with high-capacity, high-velocity, semiautomatic assault rifles. Bullets from a 5.56 mm rifle easily penetrated sealed windows, doors, cabinets and walls. But lockdowns can save lives."

## Corning, California

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The school’s security plan worked “flawlessly,” wrote Superintendent Richard Fitzpatrick, but that didn’t diminish the indignation he felt that his students and staff had suffered through the terror — and that so little had been done to ensure someone else couldn’t attempt to do the same thing, there or at any other American school.

The attacker, who had been stripped of his guns by a judge, had built the weapons he used with parts, many of which are readily available online.

Without what Fitzpatrick called “sensible gun control . . . We are largely powerless from determined shooters with high-capacity, high-velocity, semi- automatic assault rifles.”

The idea for Jordan Goudreau’s business came to him in Puerto Rico, where he had traveled to work in private security in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Goudreau, a U.S. Army combat veteran, was making lots of money on the island, he said, but the new opportunity was too enticing to pass up.

“I saw Parkland, and I was like, ‘Well, nobody’s really tackling this, so I want to fix this,’ ” Goudreau explained at the expo in Florida, where the state legislature had just committed more than a quarter-billion dollars to school safety.

The solution, Goudreau concluded, was to embed former Special Operations agents, posing as teachers, inside schools. He argued that the benefits over resource officers were obvious.

First, because the children wouldn’t know who his guys really are (or that they’re armed and adept at counterterrorism tactics), students would be more likely to open up, giving agents a chance to glean information that could expose a potential threat.

“He’s just a — he’s a cool shop teacher: ‘Hey, what’s up, fellas,’ ” said Goudreau, 42, envisioning a potential conversation with a child. “I go sit down with a kid who’s alone, playing ‘Dungeons and Dragons,’ and I just try to see whether there’s any problems.”

Second, Goudreau said, his men all thrive in combat and could quickly snipe a shooter.

“The beauty of it is it’s all for the price of a Netflix subscription, so it’s really hard to argue with me about, ‘Well, it costs too much.’ You can’t tell me that,” insisted Goudreau, hair buzzed and jaw square.

No schools had yet signed on for the program, and he still hadn’t worked out a number of the business plan’s precise details, but Goudreau was certain that he wanted to bill the parents of each student directly (for \$8.99 a month) so his staff could remain independent from any district’s “chain of command.”

When the media relations liaison standing beside him at their booth suggested that, if necessary, they could go through school boards and accept government money, Goudreau cut him off.

“But we don’t want to. We don’t want that,” he said. “We want private money, because it’s faster.”

Among the many challenges educators face in trying to protect their students from harm is determining what product, or person, to trust.

As Home Depot and Walmart market \$150 bulletproof backpacks to frightened parents, administrators are being inundated with pitches from entrepreneurs pushing new concepts that make grand promises. One superintendent who responded to the survey said that within hours of a shooting earlier this year, her inbox was “flooded from vendors with some pretty disrespectful and tacky statements: ‘had you had this . . .’; ‘if you had this . . .’ ”

The industry is also rife with self-appointed experts and consultants who claim to know what safety measures are most effective, but given that so little government or academic research has been done on what insulates students from on-campus gun violence, it’s enormously difficult for schools to reach conclusions based in fact.

“Decisions about whether to invest in school security technology for a school or school district are complex,” the Johns Hopkins study said. “Many choices about the technology selected, however, may be made with incomplete information or with information that is influenced more by political or reactionary consideration than by local conditions.”

For administrators at the expo, trying to understand which vendors were true authorities was especially tricky, in part because, like Goudreau, dozens had worked in other industries before pivoting to school security.

Joe Taylor, co-founder of Nightlock, created a residential door barricade 15 years ago after someone tried to break into his parents’ home. Back then, he never envisioned producing a version for classrooms. Now, schools make up 95 percent of his business.

As he explained that the company had made the transition after being bombarded with requests following the Sandy Hook shooting, a man approached his booth.

“I just bought about \$7,000 worth of these,” said Cas Gant, an assistant principal from a charter school in Panama City, Fla.

Taylor noted that, at one point, his devices were back-ordered nearly two months.

“Right after the Parkland shooting —” he said, pausing.

“A surge?” asked Gant’s wife, Desiree.

“There was a big surge,” he said. “But we’re finally caught up.”

“That’s good,” she said. “Anything to keep our babies safe.”

As the men continued discussing the door lock, Desiree looked around, taking in the scene. Her husband had attended school safety expos before, but this was her first.

“This is sad. I came in here with my mouth wide open,” she murmured. “Isn’t it scary that we literally have to go through this — that all of these vendors are here?”

Carl Manna, an assistant principal at another Florida high school, felt the same way as he wandered the room, though none of this was new to him.

At one booth, he paused to stare at a photo from Forest High showing the desks and chairs that had been stacked to the classroom’s ceiling to keep the gunman out. Months earlier, Manna had pretended to be an active shooter in a training video his school produced.

“That,” he said, “is what the room looked like after I left.”

Critics argue that one aspect of the training known as “Counter,” which teaches students to confront shooters, is dangerous and irresponsible. (Amber Ferguson/The Washington Post)

The video opens with Manna, in jeans and a dark hoodie, stalking Branford High’s hallways. In his right hand, he holds a water pistol wrapped with black tape.

Manna, also the narrator, explains that the video would review “ALICE” training, a set of strategies developed by an Ohio-based company that teaches people how to respond to active shooters. The acronym stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. “The proper use of these five steps could save your life,” he says, as the video illustrates a series of widely accepted approaches to staying safe in an active-shooter situation.

Then, at the 2:13 mark, a plastic Germ-X hand sanitizer bottle appears on the screen, followed by a 20-ounce Mountain Dew, a travel mug and an Adobe Photoshop hardcover textbook.

“Once you have locked and barricaded the door, quickly move to an area out of sight,” Manna says. “Grab several items you can use to protect yourself. Every room is equipped with something that could distract and defend against the aggressor.”

Seconds later, the video shows Manna and a disguised administrator at another high school each entering classrooms, their guns raised. When Manna walks in, he’s bombarded with flying bottles, books and a backpack before the teenagers rush him. In the other video, kids tackle the man to the floor directly beneath an American flag mounted to the wall.

This is what the ALICE Training Institute describes as “counter.”

The drills have grown in popularity in recent years, and many schools, including some of those surveyed, have credited its conventional lockdown and evacuation training with saving the lives of students and staff. But numerous ALICE critics — including consultants, school psychologists, safety experts and parents — have argued that teaching children to physically confront gunmen, under any circumstances, is dangerous and irresponsible.

“What if the person is ex-military or the person has police training, and you’re teaching the student to throw a can of green beans or attack?” asked Joe E. Carter, vice president of business development and marketing at United Educators, an insurance company that covers more than 800 K-12 schools around the country. “I haven’t seen any data out there — real data — that this is something that makes it safer.”

Representatives from ALICE, which was founded by a former police officer, insist that the counter strategies should be used as a last resort and that schools are responsible for deciding what’s suitable for their students. Colleen Lerch, a marketing specialist at the company, said their instructors recommend “SWARM” techniques — in which kids may gang tackle shooters — only to students who are at least 13 or 14 years old.

“At this age, it is statistically very high that the shooter will be the same age as potential victims. A room full of 14 year old’s can easily control another 14 year old,” Lerch asserted in an email to The Post, though she provided no evidence to support either claim.

In fact, a third of shooters who attack middle and high schools are older than their victims, according to a Post analysis. Also, while The Post found that adults who were not members of law enforcement have subdued more than a dozen school shooters over the past 19 years — including on at least three campuses that underwent ALICE training — the company could not point to a single case in which students used its counter techniques to take down a gunman.

On multiple occasions, however, students who have confronted armed attackers, whether on purpose or accidentally, have been killed or wounded. Last year, a 15-year-old boy was shot to death at Freeman High, just outside Spokane in rural Rockford, Wash., after he tried to stop an armed student in the hallway. Three months later, a 17-year-old was killed when he came upon a gunman in the bathroom who was readying an attack at Aztec High in New Mexico, and a 17-year-old girl was wounded when she did the same thing at Alpine High in Texas two years ago.

Excerpts from Aztec High School’s survey responses

**What did you learn from the shooting?**

“Preparation in advance was key as teachers and staff reacted and did not have to think about what to do. That saved a lot of lives on that day. Radios are key in communication as that is what started the lockdown as it came from a custodian. Training in advance from all stakeholders is huge, things like incident command training, doing drills, ensuring you have relationships and collaboration with all emergency entities...”

**Aztec, New Mexico**

On Dec. 7, 2017, a 21-year-old man with a Glock 9mm semiautomatic handgun shot and killed two students before firing at others and eventually killing himself. The following responses were provided by the Aztec Municipal School District.

**What type of drills, if any, had the school done before the shooting (classic lockdown, active-shooter, ALICE or something else), and how often had they been practiced?**

“Our school had done lockdown drills, shelter in place, fire drills, etc. Our district has been actively involved in tabletops and live drills over the past 10 years and has a great relationship with the Emergency Management Office of San Juan County. At these tabletops, all the other local school districts in our county also participate, so we were prepared because of many years of drills and scenarios.”

**What other types of safety measures, if any, did the school have in place before the shooting (metal detectors, SROs, special door locks, pepper spray, armed teachers, etc.)?**

“We have access controls, which means we could and did lock all outside doors once the event started. Our standard procedure is all classroom doors are locked all day.”

**Had the school worked with an outside safety consultant of any kind before the shooting?**

“Yes we have done extensive work with San Juan County Emergency Management Office. For over 10 years, we have had monthly safety meetings with a committee that involves different agencies and reps from the other school districts in the county. In addition we have conducted and attended tabletops with different scenarios, including active shooter.... In addition, we had Homeland Security do a safety audit of our campus several years ago.”

**What ultimately ended the shooting?**

“Self-inflicted gunshot wound. There was a fast response by local law enforcement and the shooter could not get into rooms and police arrived on scene within 3.5 minutes and as a result of this he shot himself.”

**Did any of the safety measures specifically work — meaning, they kept students safe from harm — and if so, which ones?**

“Hide measures and locked doors so the shooter could not get in the room. In addition during the event fire alarms went off, but we are trained not to exit and when this happened administration got on intercom and gave instructions not to exit the rooms.”

**In retrospect, what — if anything — do you believe could have been done to stop the shooting from happening at all?**

“Not sure anything could have stopped the evil coward from committing this act of violence.”

**What safety measures were put in place after the shooting?**

“Security, both armed and partially armed. Student badges and we are now applying for grants to try and limit the number of access points onto the campus. It is a wide open campus that sits on 11 acres and has a city street that runs through it that separates it into two different parts. In addition there are many buildings that are separated from one another.”

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Malcolm Hines, head of safety for the Florida district where Manna participated in the active-shooter video, understood criticisms of the counter training but said he also suspected some parents would object if the kids weren’t taught how to defend themselves.

“This is an option for them to at least fight back,” said Hines, whose district has paid ALICE more than \$7,500 since late last year.

In numerous ALICE training videos online, the plan always works to perfection: Students pelt the faux shooter with objects the moment he appears, then — without hesitation — several kids charge the intruder, easily bringing him to the ground before he fires a shot.

It’s ludicrous, critics say, to think that children would behave with such decisiveness and precision if they were facing a real gunman.

“There is no research/evidence . . . that teaching students to attack a shooter is either effective or safe,” Katherine C. Cowan, spokeswoman for the National Association of School Psychologists, wrote in a statement to The Post. “It presumes an ability to transform psychologically from a frightened kid to an attacker in the moment of crisis, the ability to successfully execute the attack on the shooter (e.g., hit the shooter with the book or rock, knock them down, etc.) again in a crisis situation, the ability to not accidentally hurt a classmate, the reality that unsuccessfully going on the attack might make that student a more likely target of the shooter.”

Nicole Hockley, whose 6-year-old son, Dylan, was killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012, concluded long ago that much of America looks at school safety the wrong way.

“It’s so much focus on imminent danger and what you do in the moment,” she said, “as opposed to what you do to stop it from happening in the first place.”

Hockley and her colleagues at Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit she co-founded, have argued that reforming gun laws would make a difference, but she knows that there are other, perhaps more attainable, ways to prevent harm, too. In March, her organization launched the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System, which allows users to privately submit safety concerns through a computer, phone or app.

Because many, if not most, shooters offer some indication of their intentions through comments to friends or online, Hockley has for years encouraged students to speak up if they’re aware of a potential threat. Often, though, kids said that they feared repercussions, a concern that the anonymity should alleviate.

The service, which is free and will be adopted by more than 650 districts by January, has already produced meaningful results.

At the start of this school year, the organization said, a tipster informed the crisis center that a student who might have access to guns had talked about shooting gay classmates. Staff immediately contacted local law enforcement and school district leaders, who intervened. In another case, someone reported that an eighth-grade friend was cutting herself and considering suicide. Sandy Hook Promise said the girl is now receiving treatment.

The system and others like it address what several of the surveyed schools said was the only thing that could have stopped the shootings on their campuses: a tip from someone who knew it might happen.

No one at a South Carolina school knew that a former student would drive there and open fire on the playground two years ago, but afterward, the superintendent in Anderson County, Joanne Avery, fixated on finding another way to keep her kids safe.

Avery overhauled the school system’s safety measures after the shooting, adding resource officers, increasing the number of active-shooter drills, installing trauma kits, updating surveillance systems and providing receptionists with panic buttons.

She changed one district practice, too.

The shooter, who was 14 at the time, had been expelled from a middle school in a neighboring district after making threats and bringing a hatchet in his bag. It was then, in his isolation as a home-schooler, that he became obsessed with mass murderers and planned his attack on [Townville Elementary](#).

So, early this year, when the principal at one of her schools asked to expel a student who’d talked on social media about bludgeoning classmates, Avery said no.

“I’m not just going to expel him and be done with him,” she recalled telling the principal. “You’re going to increase your chances of that person coming back to your school and doing harm.”

Instead, Avery met with the sheriff’s office, a prosecutor and the area’s executive director for mental health.

“We’ve got to do something for these kind of kids,” she told them, and what they did was conduct a criminal investigation, charge the boy and set a court date.

She attended, and although the student’s mother argued that he should be released, Avery had told the prosecutor she wanted to make sure he got help. The judge listened, sending him to juvenile detention and ordering that he undergo a mental health evaluation and receive counseling.

Months later, at another hearing, the boy’s mother argued again that he should be released. Avery didn’t oppose that, but again, she asked that he continue to receive support. And again, the judge listened, sending the boy to an alternative school and ordering that he and his mother receive additional counseling. A probation officer was also assigned to check on him every week.

Avery doesn't know whether the boy ever would have carried out his threats. But she witnessed the damage caused by 12 seconds of gunfire — a first-grader dead, survivors overcome with trauma, a community splintered — and she does know what her time and effort cost: nothing.

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## **THE SOUTHEAST SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FUND AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.7M FOR CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS IN SIX SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITIES – FOR TWT**

<http://www.southeastsdn.org/grants/#grant-announcements>

The Southeast Sustainable Communities Fund (SSCF) is pleased to announce that it will invest a total of \$1,798,400 to support six sustainability projects in the Southeast. Projects are focused on implementing and scaling equitable solutions to the challenges associated with climate change, and are more pointedly addressing issues associated with water and/or energy. Funded for two years (2019-2020), projects will be shaped by community input and implemented by a collaborative of local governments and grassroots partnerships in each jurisdiction.

The SSCF is supported by the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN), and philanthropic partners, The Kendeda Fund ([www.kendedafund.org](http://www.kendedafund.org)) and The Kresge Foundation ([www.kresge.org](http://www.kresge.org)). Partners developed the SSCF to provide needed resources for experiential learning and capacity building around sustainability in Southeastern communities. SSDN is a member led and member driven network of sustainability professionals who collaborate to solve problems, implement equitable solutions, and influence decision-makers in the South. The fund aligns with the network's mission to accelerate and scale implementation of local government sustainability best practices in the region.