



Guns in Schools: A Dangerous Proposal

- ❑ **NRA Guns in All Schools Proposal:** The NRA’s so-called “School Shield” program aims to place armed guards in schools across the country.
 - **Good Guys With Guns:** The proposal was a follow up to NRA President Wayne LaPierre’s argument that “the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.”

- ❑ **Why the NRA’s Proposal is Dangerous**
 - **Increased Risk of Accidental Shooting:** Intentionally bringing more guns to schools makes an accidental shooting more likely. Here are some examples:
 - An East Texas school maintenance worker was accidentally shot during a district-sponsored handgun safety class.¹
 - Two people were accidentally wounded after a pistol accidentally discharged at a south Kansas high school graduation ceremony.²
 - **Armed Guards Can’t Prevent Shootings:** We have only to recall the horror and tragedies of Columbine and Virginia Tech to know that armed guards on site don’t prevent school shootings.
 - **Schools Should Not Become Like Prisons.** Parents do not want their children’s schools turned into fortresses or prisons. They do not want 5-year-olds walking past a man with a gun just to get to their kindergarten class.
 - **No Insurance Coverage for Schools with Guns.** Insurance companies recognizing the increased risk accompanying the NRA’s proposal are increasing insurance premiums or declining coverage altogether for schools that allow teachers to carry guns.

- ❑ **More Guns in Schools Are Not the Answer: Gun Violence Prevention Is**
 - **Legislation to Prevent Gun Violence:** Legislation pending in Congress aims to *prevent* gun violence, not react to it, and will help keep our students and their learning environments safe by:
 - **Requiring background checks for all gun sales.** Ironically, the NRA proposes that armed guards undergo background checks—even though it opposes them for gun shows and Internet sales.
 - **Ensuring that missing records of prohibited gun purchasers make it into the background check system.**
 - **Cracking down on gun trafficking.** Thanks to New York’s strong firearms laws, New York exports crime guns at a rate less than one-sixth the national average of 19.4%, making the state an uncommon source of crime guns used in other states.³
 - **Enhancing school safety** by taking meaningful action on gun violence prevention including education, increasing access to mental health services and providing a safe and secure learning environment for all students.

- ❑ **Support for Common Sense Gun Violence Prevention Legislation:**
 - **Public Support:** Overwhelming majorities of Americans—Americans who believe in the Second Amendment—support common-sense legislation to help prevent gun violence.

¹ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/02/28/van-texas-school-worker-injured-gun-training/1953273/>

² <http://ksn.com/2016/05/15/two-injured-in-accidental-shooting-at-augusta-high-school-graduation/>

³ <http://smartgunlaws.org/new-york-state-law-summary/>