

CALLS TO ARM TEACHERS ARE UNWARRANTED

50 times as many murders of young people ages 5-18 occur away from school than at school.

GUNS IN SCHOOLS

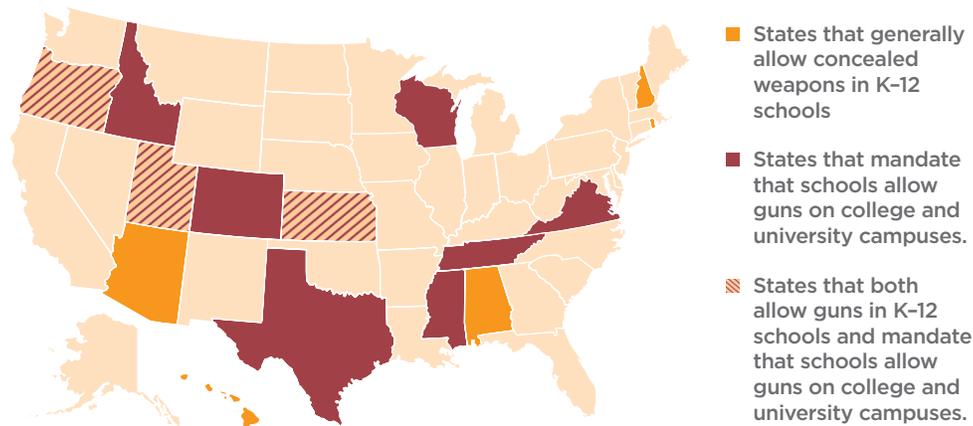
Guns have no place in our nation's schools. In recent years, one of the gun lobby's top priorities has been to pass laws that allow firearms inside K-12 schools and permit college students and others to carry guns on campus. **These irresponsible laws ignore the truth about gun violence and pose a clear, demonstrable danger to our students, teachers, and communities.** Federal and state laws that prohibit guns at schools are vital to keeping children and educators safe.



A study of school shootings in 26 states found that **in nearly two-thirds of the incidents, the attacker got the gun from his or her own home or that of a relative.**

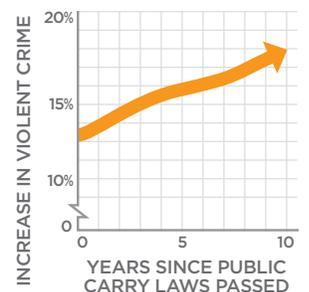
Students living on college campuses are far less likely to be attacked than when living off-campus: **over 90% of victimizations occur off campus.**

States that Allow Guns in Schools



GUNS IN PUBLIC INCREASE VIOLENT CRIME

Laws that strip regulations for carrying guns in public places are associated with a **12% to 18% increase in violent crime over the 10 years following their adoption.**



POLICY BACKGROUND: GUNS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY (K-12) SCHOOLS

School shootings are so shocking because schools are generally safe havens from the violence that is so frequent elsewhere in this country. Laws deeming schools gun-free zones have significantly reduced gun violence in these areas—school-associated student homicide rates decreased dramatically after the enactment of federal laws prohibiting guns on the grounds of K-12 schools. Gun lobby efforts to allow guns into schools are dangerous and counterproductive to public safety.

POLICY BACKGROUND: GUNS ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Most states prohibit, or allow school administrators to prohibit, guns on university and college campuses. As a result, campuses are generally free of gun violence, with much lower rates of gun death than the rest of the country.

Allowing guns on campus is likely to increase both homicides and suicides at colleges. Young adults between 18 and 25 experience the highest rate of serious mental illness. When a gun enters the mix, a suicide attempt becomes considerably more lethal. The proliferation of alcohol and drugs on college campuses also gravely increases the risk of conflicts turning violent when guns are present.

FEDERAL LAW

Two federal laws restrict firearms in or near K-12 schools. **The Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1996 prohibits possession of a gun within 1,000 feet of an elementary or high school.** However, this law exempts many people licensed by the state, allowing them to carry a gun in school zones within that state. The second federal law, **the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994, focuses on student behavior,** penalizing students in an attempt to deter them from bringing firearms to school.

There are no federal laws pertaining to guns on university and college campuses.

State Law

- Forty-two states and DC prohibit concealed weapons permit holders from possessing firearms in K-12 schools. The states that allow guns in K-12 schools are AL, AZ, HI, KS, NH, OR, UT, and RI.
- Even in the states that prohibit concealed weapons in schools, there are common exceptions for adults with special permission or when in a vehicle dropping off or picking up a student.
- Forty states and DC prohibit guns on university and college campuses or allow schools to prohibit them.
- States that do not prohibit guns on campuses and generally don't allow schools to do so are: CO, ID, KS, MS, OR, TN, TX, UT, VA, and WI. Note that in MS a special permit is required and the TN law applies to university and college employees only.

For more details and underlying research, visit smartgunlaws.org/guns-in-schools

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160+

new smart gun laws have been enacted in 43 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

114,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

ABOUT US

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America's gun violence epidemic.

 LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

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