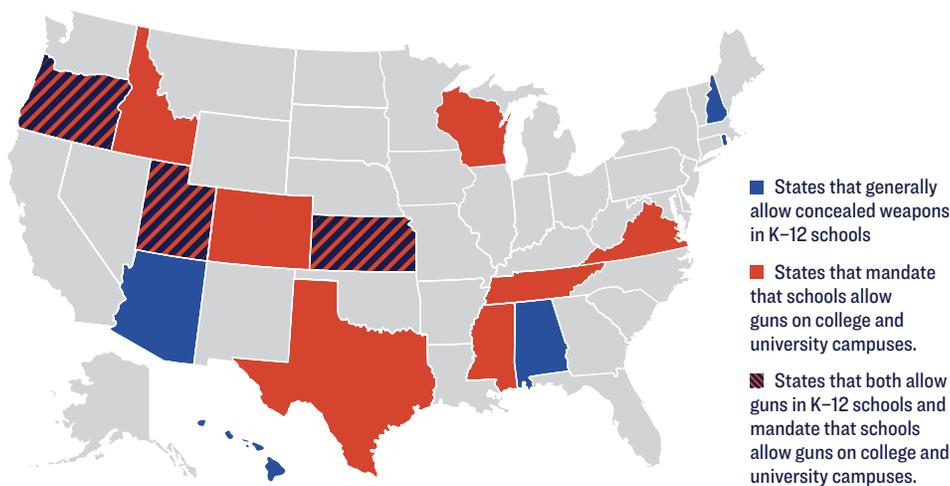


# GUNS IN SCHOOLS

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.

## STATES THAT ALLOW GUNS IN SCHOOLS

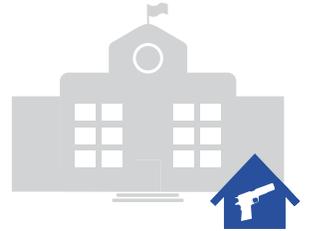


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## CALLS TO ARM TEACHERS ARE UNWARRANTED

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

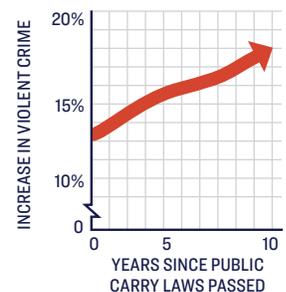


A study of school shootings in 26 states found that **in nearly two-thirds of the incidents, the attacker got the gun from his or her own home or that of a relative.**

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

## 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.

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For more details and underlying research, visit [lawcenter.giffords.org/guns-in-schools](http://lawcenter.giffords.org/guns-in-schools)

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## 210+

lifesaving gun safety laws have been enacted in 45 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

## 115,000

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

## 25x

Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed by a gun than people in other developed nations.

## WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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