

Keeping Massachusetts Schools Safe from Gun Violence



Gun violence is a public health crisis that has serious implications for educators and students.

The Impact on U.S. Students

- Firearms are the **leading cause of death** for children and teens.^{1,2,3}
- Although school shootings continue to be rare, nearly **60% of students are worried** that a shooting could happen at their school.¹
- Youth exposed to violence suffer serious **negative physical and mental health outcomes, attend school less** regularly, and **perform worse on standardized tests**.⁴
- Despite only representing 15% of the total K-12 school population, **Black students make up 30% of those in schools with a fatal shooting**.⁴
- Children and youth **living in poverty are more likely to die** by gun violence than their more affluent peers.⁷

Confronting Misinformation

- **No scientific evidence** suggests that arming school staff reduces the likelihood of a school shooting, or the lethality.^{6,7}
- Arming teachers only **increases students' risk of exposure to gun violence** and access to firearms in school.⁶
- Most **school shootings end within minutes** – leaving too short of a window for educators to assess and respond safely and **increasing the risk of errors and unintended harm**.⁶

How can I get involved?

Join the Vote Yes for a Safe MA campaign to mobilize voter to vote YES on question 9 and protect our gun safety laws. [Sign up and donate.](#)

Stronger Laws, Safer Schools

Strong safe storage laws in MA have helped keep guns out of the hands of children and teens, and reduce firearm deaths.

The new gun safety law **enhances protections** to better safeguard school communities from mass shootings, suicides, and unintentional injuries, by:

- **Allowing school administrators to request** an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) when someone poses a danger to themselves or others.
- **Raising the minimum age** from 18 to 21 to purchase or own a semiautomatic rifle.

The presence of guns increases risk, not safety. Let's make sure MA schools remain a safe place to teach, learn, and thrive.

Sources:



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