

The Report of the NJSBA Task Force on Firearms Safety in Schools & Communities

*Processes, Programs & Practices
for Firearms Safety
in School, Home & the Community*

2023



New Jersey School Boards Association

www.njsba.org | 609. 695. 7600 | 888.88NJSBA

Is the Tiger Caged?



Why Conduct a Study of Firearm Safety?

Centers for Disease Control:

- *2020: firearm-related injuries surpassed automobile accidents to become the leading cause of death among children and adolescents*

Everytown for Gun Safety:

- *2021: 3,597 children died by gunfire*
- *2021: suicides made up 1,078—nearly 30 percent— of child gun deaths,*



- **2022 JAMA:** *An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm*

Everytown for Gun Safety:

- *Between 2015 and 2020, there were at least 2,070 unintentional shootings by children that resulted in 765 deaths and 1,366 nonfatal injuries*
- *2020: at least 125 children ages 5 and under shot themselves or someone else.*



Rutgers Gun Violence Research Center in NJ:

- 1.45 million live in homes w firearms
- 2/3s owners always store firearms at home.
- Safe, locked storage in NJ:
 - 71% always/nearly always store w firearms locked device
 - 15% never or only occasionally store guns locked
 - 50+% always store in a locked location, 25% never do so.
 - 70.3% never store their firearms loaded
 - 20% always or nearly always store loaded.
- Owners store firearms within reach of ammunition:
 - 35.7% never do; 25.3% always do
- 70% never store their firearms in their vehicles.
- 10% always store firearms in their vehicles.
- 75% Never carry firearms outside the home, 8.2% always



- **10%** of New Jersey firearm owners always store firearms in their vehicles. This can increase the risk for firearm theft and firearm-involved road rage incidents.
- **75%** of New Jersey firearm owners never carry firearms outside the home
- **8.2%** always or nearly always do so.



- ***Every year in the United States, 35,000 people are killed and 90,000 people are injured by gun violence. Family fire (shootings involving improperly stored or misused guns found in the home) accounts for a majority of these tragedies.***

ASK to End Family Fire, Brady Foundation

- ***Ask if there is an unlocked gun where your child plays. This question can save your child's life. If the answer is YES, ask if it can be locked up (unloaded with ammo locked separately). If the gun isn't stored safely, your child shouldn't play there.***

Claire McCarthy, MD, Harvard Medical School



Gun Safety Advocates

Advocating Firearm Safety is NOT Political!

- **American Academy of Pediatrics**
- **NRA**
- **National PTA**
- **American Hunters & Shooters Association**
- **97Percent**
- **Brady Foundation**
- **Boy Scouts**
- **National 4-H**
- **Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence**
- **Giffords Law Center**
- **Sandy Hook Promise**
- **Moms Demand Action**
- **Everytown**
- **Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)**
- **Scholastic Shooting Sports Federation**



Local BOEs: Possible Steps

- Collaborate with the local municipal governing body and all stakeholders to form a *Firearms Safety Alliance*
- Inform the Community about Gun Safety
 - Consider Adopting the Gun Safety Resolution
- Teach:
 - Firearm Safety
 - Secure Gun Storage
 - Project Child Safe
 - NRA's Eddie Eagle
 - NJSBA sample lesson plans
 - Gun Safety for Kids
- Advocate Safe Storage



Action: Parents & Communities

Parents/Guardians Have a Critical Role

- **Are we facilitating safe behaviors...?**
 - Parent Academies to inform?
 - Facilitating healthy student interactions with Class III and SROs?
 - Collaborating with community alliances? Youth Activity Sponsors? Local business that cater to kids? Pediatricians and local med providers?
- **Preventing firearms deaths/injuries**
 - Do the homes my child visits have firearms?
 - Are the firearms in homes and other places visited by kids stored safely?
 - Have I talked to my kids about safe handling of guns? The potential danger when guns are not handled safely and properly?



Why Do These Efforts to Our Keep Kids Safe Require Collaboration?

- In an average week, kids spend 80% of their time OUT OF SCHOOL!
- The statistics suggest the need for BOEs to participate in, support and/or initiate community-wide efforts to address gun safety & the impact of gun violence.
 - Address students' mental and emotional health
 - Strategies to diffuse conflicts and violence
 - Help children and teens overcome trauma
 - Enable kids to build bonds of trust with caring adults



Task Force Survey

- Over 78% of respondents to the NJSBA Firearms Task Force Survey reported their districts had a structure in place to address trauma and mental health issues
 - School Based Youth Services
 - NJ Statewide Student Support Services Network - *NEW*



What Makes Schools Safe?

Prior NJSBA TF Reports

- What Makes Schools Safe? 2014; 84 Recommendations
 - Role of SROs, emergency response procedures, target hardening, promoting healthy school climates
 - www.njsba.org/schoolsecurity2014
- Student Achievement-2017; 83 Recommendations
 - www.njsba.org/student-achievement2017
- School Security Committee 2018; 14 Recommendations
 - Planning, Response and Recovery; cyber security, building security, special events
 - www.njsba.org/schoolsecurity2018
- Building a Foundation for Hope; 70 recommendations
 - Mental health, crisis intervention, community alliances, PD
 - www.njsba.org/building-a-foundation-for-hope



CHARGE : NJSBA Firearms Safety Task Force

Recognizing that gun violence is the number one cause of death in America among children under the age of 18, the NJSBA has established the Firearms Safety Task Force, which will:

- Research and identify proactive, preventative programs, processes and actions designed to keep students, their families and others safe from accidental or intentional firearm violence in school, at home, and in the community, and**
- Recommend strategies local BOEs may consider for implementation to prevent acts of violence involving firearms, all weapons. Such programs may address gun safety and firearm storage, healthy school climate and the impact of exposure to violence on student mental health.**



Task Force Membership

Raymond R. Wiss, Chairperson

President Emeritus, NJSBA

Marie Bilik, President, Green Township BOE

Former Executive Director, NJSBA

Erica Campbell,

Palmyra BOE, NJSBA Board of Directors

Josephine Garcia, Newark BOE, Essex Co.

School Boards Association-President

Dahiana Grisales, Dover BOE

Raymond Hayducka

Chief of Police, South Brunswick

William Hulse, Cranford BOE President,

Union Co. School Boards Association

Rita Martin, Winslow Township BOE

NJSBA Board of Directors

Scott Miller, Vice President Dover BOE

**George Scott, Statewide Coordinator, NJ
Traumatic Loss Coalition**

Irene LeFebvre (ex officio)

President, NJSBA

NJSBA Staff

Dr. Timothy Purnell, Executive Director

Carl Tanksley, General Counsel

Vincent DeLucia, Educator Specialist

Cynthia Harrison, Senior Legal Assistant

Resource Person: Frank Belluscio,

Former NJSBA Deputy Executive

Director/Director of Communications



53 Pages Plus an Extensive Resource Bibliography Later...

“After we discuss safe storage and handling of firearms, what else are we going to say?”

Ray Wiss, Task Force Chair
at the First Meeting of the
NJSBA Task Force on Firearms Safety



Resources

- Everytown for Gun Safety
- Be SMART
- Moms Demand Action
- Project ChildSafe
- NRA Eddie Eagle GunSafe®
- End Family Fire
- Northwell Health Center for Gun Violence Prevention
- The American Academy of Pediatrics
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center @Rutgers
- The National PTA
- National Center for the Prevention of Community Violence
- National Sports Shooting Foundation



Research Reports & Articles

- “New Jersey Gun Laws,” [Giffords Center](#)
- 2022 Report on Firearms in New Jersey,”
[NJ Gun Violence Research Center at Rutgers](#)
- “Childhood’s Greatest Danger: The Data on Kids and Violence,”
[The New York Times Magazine](#)
- “Can Community Programs Help Slow the Rise of Violence?,” [ProPublica](#)
- “The Science of Gun Policy: A Critical Synthesis of Research Evidence on the Effects of Gun Policies in the United States,” [RAND Corporation](#)
- “Gun Safety Should Be a Key Part of Safety Guidance to Parents,”
[Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia](#)
- “Children and Gun Safety: What to Know and Do,” [Harvard Medical School](#)
- “Stop the Shooting: Inside the effort to protect students from neighborhood gun violence,”
[Chalkbeat](#)
- “Violence Impacts Teen Lives,” [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- “Invisible Wounds: Gun Violence and Community Trauma among Black Americans,”
[Everytown](#)



Mental Health/Emotional Support/ Social-Emotional Learning

- “Creating Healthy and Supportive School Climates that Support the Well-Being of Students and Mitigate Risk.” Appendix D of this report
 - 24 sources of information on safe and healthy school climates, traumatic loss, restorative justice and other subjects
- Rutgers Social-Emotional Character Development Lab
- Search Institute: 40 Developmental Assets that support Healthy Choices and Decisions
- “Building a Foundation for Hope” 2019 final report of NJSBA’s Task Force on Mental Health
- Dylan’s Wings of Change



*TF Survey: Current District Programs

- Cape Assist
- Care Solace
- Care Plus-NJ
- Effective School Solutions
- First Children Services
- SAFE Alliance
- Thrive Institute
- Wellsprings Counseling Center
- W Windsor-Plainsboro Parent Academy
- Newark Safe Passage Program
- Red Bank Regional HS “The Source”
- Hopewell Valley Healthy Communities Municipal Alliance
- Manchester Regional-Falcon’s Lounge

***Click on QR Codes/links**



Safety: NJ Gun Laws

- Grade A, Among Nation's Most Effective Gun Laws: Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun
 - 1st State to regulate “Ghost” Guns
 - Gun licensing, child access prevention, & community violence intervention funding
- 2020: Nationally, 3rd lowest gun death rate; 2nd lowest gun export rate
- Handgun Carry Standards: identifies sensitive places to ban concealed carry
- 1995 Zero Tolerance for Guns Act: any pupil found guilty of schoolgrounds' gun possession suspended for 1 year



Principles of Gun Safety

“Regardless of location or political values, there seems to be a nearly universal agreement that if people own guns...they should be stored safely.”

Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action

“You are responsible for making sure your firearms are not accessible to anyone but yourself and other authorized personnel, especially curious children!” – NRA Family



“Hiding a gun in a closet, drawer or similar location is not safe storage” - NSSF

National Shooting Sports Foundation Firearm Safety:

1. Unloaded firearms stored in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case and inaccessible to children.
2. Gun locking devices render firearms inoperable, can be used in addition to locked storage. Disassembled firearms parts should be securely stored in separate locations.
3. Ammunition/Firearms locked, stored separate locations separately
4. Thoroughly double check firearms to confirm that they are unloaded when you remove them from storage. Accidents occur if a family member borrows a gun and returns it to storage while still loaded.



Safe Gun Storage



***Our Schools are NOT responsible to
TEACH firearm safety...***

***Our Schools ARE responsible to
PROMOTE firearm safety***



Secure Firearm Storage: The Most Critical Step

Regardless of location or political values, there seems to be a nearly universal agreement that if people own guns...they should be stored safely. –

Shannon Watts, **Moms Demand Action**

It is always an adult's responsibility to prevent unauthorized access to guns, not a curious child's responsibility to avoid guns. That means always keeping all firearms locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition.

Be SMART, "Talking to Your Children about Guns"

You are responsible for making sure your firearms are not accessible to anyone but yourself and other authorized personnel, especially curious children! – NRA Family



Safe Storage

Storing firearms safely in a gun safe, unloaded, separate from the ammunition, or using a gun lock or trigger lock, can help prevent firearm injuries and death. Gun safety devices are readily available”

Northwell Health, Center for Gun Violence Prevention

Your responsibility is ensuring that unsupervised children cannot encounter loaded firearms. The precautions you take must be completely effective. Anything less invites tragedy and is a serious violation of your responsibility as a gun owner.

Project ChildSafe



Safe Use & Storage

- Both the *Gun Lobby* and *Gun Control Lobby* Agree:
It's important to store firearms securely and to provide instruction on safe gun use.
- Firearm safety advocates, gun-owner organizations and academic researchers all cite safe storage of firearms as the most effective strategy to protect children from gun injury and death.
- 2022 RU report: Most NJ gun owners follow safe storage procedures, **a significant number do not store firearms under lock and do keep loaded guns at home.**
- Some NJ districts provide gun safety (alliances, programs), greater awareness among BOEs needed



NRA/Boy Scouts Safe Gun Handling Rules

- ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use
- Know your target and what is beyond.
- Know how to use the gun safely
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate
- Never use alcohol, drugs, OTC prescriptions before or while shooting.
- Store guns so not accessible to unauthorized persons



Parent/Community Action

- Parents/guardians have a critical role to play in preventing firearm deaths and injuries:
 - determining the presence of guns/methods of firearm storage in homes and other places kids go
 - talking with their children about safe gun practices
 - discussing the potential danger of mishandling firearms.
- Gun Safety Awareness and Storage can be promoted through a variety of forums including:
 - school district-sponsored parent academies
 - student interaction w school resource officer
 - law enforcement agencies, community alliances/partnerships, rec programs, faith community and pediatricians and other health care providers.



Parent/Community Action

- Resources are available to parents and guardians on how to ask about the presence and security of guns at the homes of their children's friends and relatives.
- Organizations providing support include Northwell Health, Brady, which developed the ASK (Asking Saves Kids)/End Family Fire campaign, and the NRA



BOE Actions to Consider

- Establish a Community Safety Alliance
- Advocate Safe Storage: Proposed NJ Safe Storage of Firearms Act (S-2937/A-2215) establishes specific firearm storage requirements & increases penalties for non-compliance
- Inform the Community: Gun Firearm Safety and Storage:
 - Consider Firearm Safety Instruction (e.g. secure gun storage, Project ChildSafe and the NRA's Eddie Eagle Program, can be incorporated into health education and other programs.
- Adopt resolutions to support school district efforts to distribute information on gun safety & storage



School Resource/Class III Officers

- South Brunswick Police Chief Raymond Hayducka, said that instruction on secure gun storage and firearm safety could be addressed by school resource officers, whose responsibilities include education and counseling, along with security.
- Chief Hayducka provided **two 45-minute lesson plans**, (elementary and middle/high school classes) www.njsba.org/firearms-safety/lesson-plans.
- Chief Hayducka also shared a presentation, “**Gun Safety for Kids,**” that could be adapted for instructional use. www.njsba.org/firearms-safety/gun-safety-for-kids. safety



Community Safety Alliances Municipal Alliances

***“Schools are microcosms
of the communities they serve.”***

Dr. Marion White-Hood, Milken Award Winner

***“I realized long ago that the only way to protect
my students is to stop the shootings where they
occur – NOT in my school, but in the
neighborhood around it!”****

Newark, NJ Teacher (Chalkbeat, 9/22)

***1992-2019, 3% of youth homicides occurred on school properties
(National Center for Education Statistics)**



Community Safety Alliances

- 1980s: Independent community groups address teen alcohol and substance use
- 1991: Governor Florio establishes Municipal Alliances modeled after the community-based alliances
- 1996 Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance: Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth
- 1998 South Brunswick Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Alliance



Building a Community Safety Alliance

- Who are our potential partners?
- **Include All Voices** - Community members must see their voices, their opinions represented on the Alliance
- **Collaborate** – **Decisions MUST be made based on ALL voices/opinions and supported by the majority of the Alliance.**
- **For Successful Implementation, ALL must support Alliance's decisions.**



Local Municipality: Who?

- **Local Municipal Government Officials**
 - Local Governing Body
 - Mayor, Council, Twp. Committee, etc.
 - Municipal/County health officers
- **Law enforcement**
 - Senior Leadership
 - School Resource & Juvenile Officers
 - DARE, GREAT etc.
- **Public Library**
- **Arts, Recreational, Service and Activity Programs**
(athletics, arts, academics, interest, service)



Community Groups: Who?

- Non-public school community
- Faith-based community
- Service organizations (e.g., Rotary, Lions, Elks)
- Local Medical Community: Pediatricians, Family/General Practice, Internists, Mental Health and Trauma Professionals;
- Chambers of Commerce
- Businesses that Cater to Youth (Gaming, Fast Food, Convenience Stores, Roller Rinks, Movie Theaters, Escape Rooms, etc.)



How can Alliances Begin Their Work? A Suggested Process

- **Identify the groups that should be represented on the Community Safety Alliance?**
 - **Who can contribute to keeping our kids safe?**
- **Conduct a “needs assessment”**
 - **“What are the safety-related priorities and needs of OUR community?”**



How can Alliances Begin Their Work?

As Community Safety Alliance, review the NJSBA Firearms Safety Community & School Task Force suggestions.

The following questions should guide the discussions:

- Are we doing this currently?
- If not, does it have the potential to meet a community need?
- If so, should it be further studied to determine if it is appropriate for our community?
- If we are already doing this, how effective has it been in meeting the need or goal?
- **Develop an Action Implementation Plan**



Between 2015 and 2020, there were at least *2,070 unintentional shootings by children that resulted in 765 deaths and 1,366 nonfatal injuries.*

In 2020 alone, at least *125 children ages 5 and under* shot themselves or someone else.

Everytown for Gun Safety



Encourage Parents to Ask the Question!

Before permitting your child to have a “play date” at the home of a friend, normalize parents/guardians asking:

“Our world can be scary; did you read about the 6 year-old who brought a loaded gun to school? May I ask? If you have a gun in your home, can I assume it is not loaded, locked, and not accessible to our kids?”



Youth & College Safe, Secure Gun Programs

- National Shooting Sports Foundation
- Programs focused on
 - recreation
 - “a safe/secure knowledge of firearm usage.”
- National 4-H Shooting Sports
- AIM-Academics, Integrity, Marksmanship
- Scholastic Clay Target Program
- USA Clay Target League
- USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports



Adopt a Board Resolution-Appendix A

Final Report: NJSBA Firearms Safety Task Force
Appendix A

Sample Resolution

NOTE: Local boards of education can use this sample document as the basis for resolutions supporting district and community efforts to promote firearm safety and address gun violence. Boards can modify the content to reflect school district strategies and community beliefs.

SAFE AND SECURE HOMES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

WHEREAS, An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

WHEREAS, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70% of these incidents take place inside a home;

WHEREAS, Another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

WHEREAS, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85% reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

WHEREAS, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, up to 80% of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons;

WHEREAS, Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns that encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

WHEREAS, School districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices;

WHEREAS, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

WHEREAS, State law imposes penalties on adults when a child gains unsupervised access to improperly stored firearms;

Final Report: NJSBA Firearms Safety Task Force
Appendix A

WHEREAS, In the interest of student health and safety, it is imperative that local boards of education inform the school community of the importance of gun safety and secure firearm storage;

WHEREAS, School- and community-based programs that provide counseling and mental health support, reduce conflict and promote a healthy school climate contribute to the well-being of our students. Now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter, in English and Spanish [insert additional languages that may be spoken in students' homes], to be sent to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure firearm storage and the legal obligations of parents and guardians to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the letter be included in annual registration materials at each school site, be available at the office of school principals, school nurses, and guidance counselors, be included in district publications as appropriate, and be shared with [PTA; PTO; Home-School Association] within the district; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board and the Superintendent will continue to inform parents throughout the community about the importance of firearm safety and safe gun storage through [programs offered by the district's Parent Academy, the Community Safety Alliance, if applicable, and] collaborative efforts with municipal officials, law enforcement, the medical community, public health agencies, the faith-based community and non-profit organizations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the _____ School District will continue to address gun safety, including how students should respond if they come across a firearm, where such instruction is appropriate in the educational program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board and Superintendent will continue to support school-based and community-wide programs and services that promote a healthy school climate and help to reduce conflict, including counseling and mental health services for students and families and social-emotional learning; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the mayor(s) and governing body(ies) of [insert municipality accompanied by the school district], the _____ County Board of Commissioners, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Clases addressing secure firearm storage are adapted from the Model Secure Storage Notification Resolution developed by Evertown for Gun Safety (www.evertown.org).

A sample resolution supporting district efforts to inform parents and guardians about safe gun storage and promote other firearm safety strategies is available at:

www.njsba.org/firearms-safety/board-resolution.



For Schools to Consider

- TF Resource George Scott, Statewide Resource Coordinator, New Jersey Traumatic Loss Coalition suggests Districts consider:
- **Parent Academies** that have a “regular focus of providing support in ‘raising healthy children.’”
- **Addressing Developmental Trauma** – Early trauma can disrupt development, interfering with progress in speech-language, motor skills, attention and ability to tolerate change.
- **Restorative Justice** is “an alternative to using punishment-based approaches to school discipline and behavior management in K-12 classrooms. It focuses on repairing harm through inclusive processes that bring together students and educators.”



For Schools to Consider

- **Understanding Suicide and Suicidal Thinking**—Hurt can be expressed through acts that are dangerous and can lead to student/staff deaths. Awareness training for both certified and non-certified staff about suicide and threat assessments.
- **Healthy Children/Healthy Adults** – 40 “Assets” that contribute to healthy decisions and choices.
- **Healing from Tragedy**—Positive impact of partnership among parents, schools and community following a tragedy. Parent groups after Sandy Hook: Safe and Sound Schools, Dylan’s Wings of Change and Sandy Hook Promise “can help school boards and their administrations create environments that minimize risk to everyone.”



Social Emotional Learning = Successes in the Home, School, Community

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Includes “the learning of skills that promote cooperation, trust, and attachment”—and, sometimes includes the unlearning of certain behavior.
- SEL Skills are the foundation of personal and professional successes:

*Self Awareness, Self Management, Social Awareness,
Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision-Making*

- Resources include:
 - CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning)
 - Rutgers Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab



Severely Affected Communities

“...violence is incredibly concentrated in the U.S. In 2015, ***more than a quarter of gun homicides happened in about 1,200 neighborhoods that house just 1.5 percent of the U.S. population,***”

According to an analysis by criminologist David Kennedy of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, cited in an article in Vox. 6



Community Led Strategies

- Safe Passage (walking to school)
- Street Outreach Programs: Especially by those from the “streets” who have cred!
- Community-driven crime prevention through environmental design
- Hospital-based violence intervention programs: unique window of opportunity to engage victims of violence and prevent retaliation in the immediate aftermath of a traumatic injury
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Group violence intervention: “violence can be prevented if individuals believe the costs associated with the violence outweigh any potential benefits. T



Schools reflect the communities they serve.

Schools are centers of learning and should be safe sanctuaries for all kids

Schools address the academic, mental, social, emotional and physical health of all kids...

Is it not also our responsibility to collaborate, participate, and initiate the Processes, Programs and Practices that Prepare Kids for Safe, Healthy Successful Futures?



Gun violence can affect all communities, regardless of geographic location, population density, or demographic composition.

Yet, the incidence of death by firearms among young people and its causes (homicide, suicide, accident) varies by race/ethnicity, age, economic background, and other factors.

Therefore, initiatives to combat gun violence and to promote firearm safety should be tailored to individual community challenges, needs and beliefs.



The NJSBA Firearms Safety Task Force urges boards of education serving communities severely affected by gun violence to review information from the resources included in this report and, as appropriate, to initiate, support and/or participate in community-wide programs that address gun violence and advance the health and safety of children.



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Association

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