



## Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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# Position on School and Student Safety

**State policymakers must prioritize school safety by providing necessary funding for secure facilities, staff training, and student support services. In addition, state policymakers should strengthen requirements for secure gun storage.**

## AMSD BELIEVES

- A safe and welcoming learning and work environment is an essential characteristic of an effective school.
- Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence is the joint responsibility of state policymakers, law enforcement, community leaders, parents, and educators.
- School safety is a collaborative community endeavor situated in the local context through ongoing communication and training across schools, law enforcement, and community organizations.
- School districts must be given the resources needed to provide safe learning environments for students and staff.

## BACKGROUND

- An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm. Evidence shows that secure firearm storage is an essential component to keep schools and students safe. It is critical for the safety of children at home that the Legislature expand and pass safe storage laws.
- Every year roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else and another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member.
- Statistics indicate that in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends.<sup>1</sup>
- At least one unsecured gun is stolen from a car every nine minutes in the U.S. and the rate of gun thefts from cars tripled from 2013–2023. More than half (51 percent) of gun thefts in 2022 involved firearms stolen from vehicles; gun thefts from cars are now the largest source of stolen guns.<sup>2</sup>
- The Safe Schools Levy has been frozen at \$36 per pupil since FY15.
- The 2025 Education Bill reduced funding for student support services by \$28.7 million in the 26-27 biennium and \$23.7 million in the 28-29 biennium.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> [The Violence Project: How To Stop A Mass Shooting Epidemic](#) by Jillian Peterson, PhD and James Densley, PhD

<sup>2</sup> Be Smart For Kids: <https://besmartforkids.org/>;  
<https://besmartforkids.org/secure-gun-storage-in-cars/>