



**Embrace Advocacy for
Every Child**

One of the most important tasks the education community faces is the safety and security of our students. Mass casualty events over the last few years add an even greater sense of urgency to efforts to ensure schools are safe.

According to 2018 data, just 27% of K-12 parents with children indicated strong confidence that their school could deter a school shooting. Thirty-one percent said they were not so, or not at all, confident.

Thirty-four percent of parents feared for their child's physical safety at school—a significant increase from 12% in 2013.

Nearly 90% of superintendents said their districts had done at least one thing to improve school security in the previous six months and 89% indicated they had taken at least one more action following the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Support the Safety and Security of our Students

Create funding streams to strengthen school safety and improve school climate:

1. Funding should be allocated by formula, rather than as competitive grants, and be flexible, allowing districts to choose security enhancements and/or activities that improve school climate based on individual needs.
2. Explore options to create shared security services through BOCES and provide commensurate support for the Big 5.
3. Allow building aid to be used to fund space for school-based health and mental health clinics.

Remove barriers impeding districts' ability to hire experienced security personnel:

1. Raise the \$35,000 salary cap for retired police officers working as school resource officers.
2. Remove the annual waiver requirement for retired police officers when re-entering the workforce as SROs.

Expedite processing of all Smart Schools Bond Act applications.

Allow districts to decline their schools' designation as polling locations.

Reduce or eliminate the minimum mileage requirements related to transportation aid in urban areas where student safety is a concern, so pupils are provided with transportation to and from school.

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