



Gun violence at schools is a serious problem, but it is not the primary way children are hurt by guns.

Children are usually in their homes and communities when killed or injured by firearms.

In the past 4 years, at least 110 children in Nebraska were shot and at least 22 of them died*. We must hold each other accountable and take all measures possible to prevent both intentional and accidental

deaths associated with firearms in the home. Parent education from public schools ought to be the first line of defense.

Schools and School Boards

- Using already established methods of communication, educate, and re-educate parents and guardians using guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics after every gun incident.
 - While the safest home for children is one without a gun, safe storage practices can significantly reduce the risk of gun injury or death. Store them unloaded in a locked case, with the ammunition locked separately.
 - Advise families to remove guns from the home of any child or teenager who is depressed. Educate families that suicide attempts with a gun are very likely to be fatal, and that the presence of a gun in the home is associated with increased risk of suicide among adolescents.
 - Instruct parents to ask if there is gun in the house before sending their children to play at a friends' home.
- Yes to supporting children facing trauma utilizing additional counselors, teacher education, and anti bully programs
- Costs to existing infrastructure for perceived security from threats of firearms should be paid through taxes on guns and ammunition sales, and not from existing education allocations.
- No to metal detectors, armed teachers, and massive infrastructure updates

Examples of real gun violence in Lincoln:

--Suicide is the number one cause of death for Nebraska teens, and nearly all attempts with a firearm are successful. Few of these deaths receive media attention.

--2017 a 17yr old shot self in the leg by accident

--2016 a 14yr old was shot by a 17yr old

--2014 a 12yr old was shot by an adult when a handgun fell out of his sweatpants pocket

*Based on data from www.gunviolencearchive.org, an online archive of gun violence incidents collected from over 2,500 media, law enforcement, government and commercial sources daily in an effort to provide near-real time data about the results of gun violence. GVA is an independent data collection and research group with no affiliation with any advocacy organization.

BRING YOUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Host a Community Action Meeting

- Define a goal, make a plan, and implement the plan together
- Write letters to your school board, city council, and legislature supporting gun free schools and [safe storage laws](#)
- [Get out the vote](#) and use your votes to elect policy makes who will work to reduce gun violence
- Practice having the conversation to ask about gun in the home before a playdate

PREPARING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY ACTION

1. Identify a few friends or people in your community that want to help
2. Give members of your community a method to gather, grieve, and acknowledge the need for change. Maybe a moment of silence or time for each person to tell their story.
3. Identify small changes that can be made at the community level that help create healthy social norms within your town or city. (see Suggestions for Community Goals below)
4. Provide specific ways to achieve these goals and consider ways to engage new people
5. Keep the first meeting simple. Your action will be stronger if you allow space for everyone's ideas.
 - a. Determine a place to gather
 - b. Set a specific start and end time.
 - c. Participants must commit to some follow through.
 - d. Promote! Promote! Promote!
6. Follow through with your goals. Loud voices are merely a form of yelling unless action follows their words.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ACTIONS:

- Approach your school superintendent to see if they would be open to distributing the “Community Safety Promise.” This would ask parents and guardians to pledge that they will keep any firearms secured under lock and key and stored out of the range of unsupervised children. (see attached sample)
- Ask your hospitals to distribute a “Community Safety Promise” in their maternity take-home packets to get new parents thinking about proper gun storage from the moment of birth.
- Reach out to your closest Level One Trauma hospital administrator, head of trauma surgery, and/or emergency department to ask them to help create and distribute an evidence based medicine program for adults on best practices to prevent gun injury and death, including peer reviewed statistics on the benefits of proper gun storage and disposal of nuisance guns, and reduction in the suicide rate.
- Create a campaign for safe playdates. Encourage parents to ask any other adult who hosts or supervises their children in another home whether there are any unlocked firearms at all in their home. As hosts or caregivers, we need to also respond to these questions in love and respect.

Community Safety Promise

THE GOAL OF THIS PROMISE is to reduce the likelihood any student in this district, who may be temporarily feeling angry or suicidal, has access to firearms. In taking this collective responsibility, we as a community are upholding our part to keep our children from being victims of gun violence at school, at home, and in the wider community.

In acknowledgement of our shared community responsibility to keep any child in Nebraska from endangering themselves or other children, we promise:

- ★ To keep all firearms in our possession under lock and key and completely inaccessible to thieves and curious children. Guns will be locked and stored unloaded with ammunition locked and stored separately. This is in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatric recommendation.
- ★ To ensure that children will not have unsupervised access to firearms in our home. Unlocking mechanisms will only be available to us, the parents and guardians. Any access to firearms in this household by children will be directly supervised by a trusted and responsible adult, with prior consent given by their parents or guardians.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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