

1 **Loudoun County School Board Resolution on Gun Violence Prevention**
2

3
4 "Whereas, compared to other high-income countries, children in the United States aged 5-14 are 14 times
5 more likely to be killed with guns; and US adolescents and young adults aged 15-24 are 23 times more likely to
6 be killed with guns¹;

7 Whereas, from Columbine to Virginia Tech to Sandy Hook to Parkland, the lives of 136 students and school
8 employees have been lost to mass school shootings²;

9
10 Whereas, firearm-related deaths are the third leading cause of death overall among US children aged 1 to 17
11 years and the second leading cause of injury-related death³;

12 Whereas, about nineteen US children per day are killed by or receive emergency treatment for gunshot
13 wounds⁴;

14 Whereas, Loudoun County Public Schools believes that the health and safety of our students and employees is
15 our highest priority and that they will thrive in a vibrant, healthful, safe, enriching, and respectful environment;

16
17 Whereas, Loudoun County Public Schools has prioritized improving mental health supports and safety
18 precautions to prevent gun violence incidents from occurring; and

19 Whereas, Loudoun County Public Schools continues to devote significant resources to: supporting mental
20 health, such as mental health teams devoted to each secondary school; increasing the ratio of counselors to
21 students; enhancing architectural security, such as building vestibules at schools; implementing state-of-the-art
22 visitor management and access security systems; and enriching a vital collaborative partnership with local law
23 enforcement agencies; and

24
25 Whereas the responsibility for preventing gun violence incidents cannot be relegated to school districts alone;

26
27 Therefore be it resolved that the Loudoun County School Board calls upon the United States Congress and
28 state legislatures, including the Virginia General Assembly, to prioritize the protection of students and school
29 system employees by passing legislation that more effectively prevents gun violence incidents, reduces the
30 lethality of gun violence, and advances mental health supports."

¹ Grinshteyn E, Hemenway D. (2016, March) Violent Death Rates: The US Compared with Other High-income OECD Countries, 2010. American Journal of Medicine. [http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(15\)01030-X/pdf](http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(15)01030-X/pdf)

² Hafner, K. (2018, February 18). All the mass school shootings in the U.S. since Columbine: A timeline. *The Virginian-Pilot*, https://pilotonline.com/news/local/article_b3ee844c-5677-5d64-aba1-2208c34e32ec.html

³Fowler, K.A., et al. (2017, July 1) Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. *Pediatrics*, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/140/1/e20163486>

⁴ Jenco, M. (2017, June 19) Study: Gunfire kills or injures more than 7,000 children per year. *AAP News*, <http://www.aappublications.org/news/2017/06/19/Firearms061917>