



Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools (PSAs)

No: 1110

ACPS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This Partnership Agreement ("Agreement") is intended to memorialize an agreement to provide collaborative support of and for the Alexandria City Public Schools ("ACPS") and its students by the business or organization identified as a "Partner", for the purposes, and on the terms, outlined below. It is not intended to create a partnership in the legal sense, nor to confer on one party the authority to obligate, or speak for, the other.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Partner Information

Legal Partner Name: Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools (PSAs)

Signatory Name: Catherine Estes, Bridget Baker-White, Missy Estabrook, & Jodi Zand

Signatory Title: **PSAs Co-Founders**

Street:

City: **Alexandria**

State: **VA**

Zipcode:

Phone: **See Attachment E**

Email: **See Attachment E**

ACPS Information

ACPS Dept./School Name: **Division Wide**

Signatory Name: Mr. James Bartlett (For additional ACPS contacts, see attachment E)

Signatory Title: **Director Health, Safety and Risk Management**

Phone: **703-619-8000**

Email: **james.bartlett@acps.k12.va.us**

PROPOSED SCHOOLS

Please indicate the **proposed** school (s) for the program:

Division Wide	Elementary	Secondary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>ECC</u>	<u>Charles Barrett</u>	<u>Cora Kelly</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Lyles Crouch</u>	<u>John Adams</u>	<u>Douglas MacArthur</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>James K. Polk</u>	<u>J.H.</u>	<u>Ferdinand T. Day</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Matthew Maury</u>	<u>Mt. Vernon</u>	<u>Patrick Henry</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>George Mason</u>	<u>Samuel W. Tucker</u>	<u>Williams Ramsay</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Francis C. Hammond</u>	<u>G.W.</u>	<u>T.C. Williams</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>T.C. Satellite</u>	<u>Detention CTR.</u>	<u>Chance For Change</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

Business
 Public Entity
 Faith-Based
 Non-Profit
 Other

If other, please specify:
 Advocacy Community Group

TYPE OF SUPPORT

Academic
 Social/Emotional
 Physical Health/Wellness
 Cultural
 Creative/Arts
 Other (Specify)

If other, please specify:

EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE OF PARTNERSHIP

Support to be provided by partner:

*Recommend, through discussions and dissemination of information, specific components regarding the Violence Prevention Plan (VPP). For additional information about the VPP, please see attachment F.

*As appropriate, PSAs will be participants on the ACPS Safety and Security Committee and any other identified/ appropriate/aligned committees.

*Provide recommendations of social/emotional support resources for students involved in aligned programs and activities (example: Active Threat Strategies).

*Support ACPS communication efforts by sharing information/updates with PSAs members (parents, community members, etc.) regarding the work of ACPS in areas such as safety, security, and gun violence prevention.

*Provide information and recommendations to ACPS regarding community specific prevention programs and events that could be beneficial in increasing knowledge and proactive actions for violence prevention.

Support requested of ACPS by partner:

*Continued collaboration and communication regarding goals, suggestions, and action steps with PSAs to integrate VPP components into ACPS aligned areas (such as administrative implementation, FACE, PTAC, etc.).

*Identify, in collaboration with PSAs, opportunities throughout the school year to co-host meetings for PSAs and ACPS staff to monitor and reflect on the established goals and benchmarks of the partnership.

*Dedication to proactively share relevant information on safety and security initiatives, especially GVP, with PSAs Co-Founders.

*As appropriate, invitation of PSAs to Safety and Security Committee meetings in a timely manner.

*For meetings that PSAs was not in attendance, communication with PSAs Co-Founders to update on any relevant items that were discussed.

*In accordance with ACPS Policy KG and Regulation KG-R (Community Use of School Facilities), provide, if available, space for Violence Prevention (VP) related events/activities.

*In accordance with ACPS Policy KF and Regulation KF-R (Distribution of Information/Materials in Schools), ACPS will support the distribution of agreed and approved (by ACPS Communication Department) outreach materials regarding VP events/activities that support the shared mission. The agreed upon outreach materials will be disseminated through various/multiple distribution methods. Open discussion on possible outreach opportunities will continue through the partnership.

Goals and benchmarks for this partnership shall include:

Goal #1: ACPS will create a Violence Prevention Plan (VPP) which will include input from PSAs. The goal of this continuous collaborative effort is that the VPP will be implemented by January 1, 2020. Please see additional information found in Attachment F.

Benchmark #1: Expectation of having one additional partner meeting held prior to close of 2018-19 academic year, at least one over Summer 2019, and at least three in each following year.

Benchmark #2: In support of Safe Schools Week in October, ACPS/PTAC/PSAs will hold a collaborative safety forum (similar to Attachment A).

Benchmark #3: ACPS collaborates with Sandy Hook Promise trainers on successful implementation of the Sandy Hook "Know the Signs" programs (see attachment B) by fall 2019. ACPS plans to continue implementation district wide thereafter. A clear communication plan, aligned with ACPS Policy KF and Regulation KF-R, is created to share with ACPS community.

Benchmark #4: ACPS distributes letter/pledge/content to parents encouraging gun and drug lockup (see example Attachment C) and conducts outreach on Gun Violence Awareness Month and Wear Orange events each school year. The outreach plan for these areas will be a collaborative effort between ACPS and PSAs. Ongoing discussions will be put in place regarding the appropriate outreach methods that will be used to inform all stakeholders.

Benchmark #5: ACPS supports Be SMART (Attachment D) presentations at the District level and will provide a space (in accordance with ACPS Policy KG and Regulation KG-R) for the presentations.

Benchmark #6: ACPS and PSAs continue to collaborate and discuss best practices in regards to the outreach/communication plan for each of the areas identified in this agreement.

Goal #2: ACPS' Active Threat Strategies program successes and challenges are reflected upon and discussed as suggested based on PSAs concerns and feedback.

Benchmark #1: Health, Safety and Risk Management (Safety and Security Committee) meets with key staff and PSAs throughout the year to reflect and identify challenges and successes.

Benchmark #2: Standardized Curriculum used by teachers division-wide by Fall 2019.

Language and lessons will be age-appropriate. Lesson teaching children in grades 3-5 how to cause a distraction will be revised and debrief with counselor will be added.

Benchmark #3: Plan will be added to preempt and address social/emotional issues with students.

Benchmark #4: Ongoing evaluation of ACPS Active Threat Strategies shared and discussed with PSAs.

Successful Outcomes of partnership shall be evidenced by:

*Parents/Teachers/Administrators sharing appreciation of VPP and related events/programs.

*Parents/Teachers/Administrators/others expressing satisfaction with improvements made to Active Threat Strategies Curriculum.

*Students are better served, emotionally and intellectually, with improved Active Threat Strategies Curriculum.

*Students and parents having a clear understanding that ACPS is a leader in preventing gun and other types of violence.

*Students are able to increase their understanding and extend that information successfully to their parents/caregivers to support deep conversations and clear messaging at home.

TERM

This agreement shall become effective on the date of the last signature and shall continue for a period of 5 years. This agreement shall be subject to review by the parties annually and shall continue thereafter, provided, however, that either party shall have the right to terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PARTNERSHIP

The Partner acknowledges and agrees to comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state and local law, and all ACPS published rules and regulations (<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/policy>), included but not limited to:

- 1) **A. Termination:** ACPS has the right to terminate this Agreement at any time and for reasonable cause by giving sixty (60) days written notice signed by the party terminating the Agreement and being sent to the other party.

B. If this Agreement is terminated due to a violation of the conditions provided below or ACPS Policy, copy of which will be furnished to Provider upon signing of this Agreement, no other agreement for a partnership will be entered into between ACPS and the Partner whose agreement has been terminated for at least one (1) year.
- 2) **Use of Trademarks, Copyrights and Trade Names:** This Agreement does not give the Partner any ownership rights or interest in ACPS logos, trade names or trademarks. Likewise, this Agreement does not give ACPS any ownership rights in the Partner's name, program descriptions, or logo.
- 3) **Advertising:** ACPS must approve in writing and in advance its identification as a partner or co-sponsor in any and all publicity materials that the Partner may seek to disseminate. Any advertising by the Partner must be consistent with ACPS Policy KJ.
- 4) **Photo Consent:** The Partner assumes the responsibility for obtaining any necessary written consent of any student or employee whose likeness may appear in any materials disseminated by the Partner.
- 5) **Student Data:** All student data shall be considered to be confidential under this Agreement as well as under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. §1232g et seq., and any other federal or state statutes or regulations pertaining to student records, and will only be released in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. All student data received by the Partner shall be maintained by the Partner in a secure location, and shall immediately be returned to ACPS in its entirety upon request by ACPS.
- 6) The Partner hereby acknowledges and agrees that any confidential documents and/or data that the Partner may receive in the course of the partnership outlined herein shall not be disclosed, discussed or transferred to any third party not party to this Agreement, and any student data or information given to the Partner shall only be disclosed to employees of the Partner and ACPS employees who have a legitimate educational interest in the information.
- 7) **Curriculum Materials:** Any curriculum materials provided to the Partner by ACPS pursuant to this Agreement will be held to the same standards as ACPS curriculum materials.
- 8) **Participation:** Any participation by any student or School Board employee in any activity established pursuant to this Agreement shall be purely voluntary.
- 9) **Usage Schedule:** In the scheduling of events pursuant to this Agreement, both parties agree to honor each other's scheduled events to the greatest extent reasonably possible and not to disrupt each other's scheduled programs. Should an unforeseen event occur which precludes a joint-use activity or program from occurring; ACPS will reasonably try its best to accommodate the program at an alternate ACPS location, site or room. For special events, the Program or Provider must complete an additional ACPS building use agreement in accordance with ACPS Policy KG to request written permission from ACPS to use any space not previously approved for use by the Provider or any time not previously reserved for assigned space. Such requests must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days prior to the event.

- 10) **Exclusive Use:** Nothing in this Agreement shall create any exclusive rights for the Partner or prohibit ACPS from entering into agreements to utilize programs or services of other partners or providers.
- 11) **Background Check and Security Provisions:** The Partner shall inform its employees, representatives and agents that their placement in an ACPS school or facility will be contingent upon the results of a criminal background check, background verification as well as a Sex Offender Registry Search in accordance with ACPS policies and procedures for ACPS volunteers and employees. The failure to successfully pass ACPS' background check shall serve as grounds for immediate dismissal or removal of that employee, agent or representative from any program administered on an ACPS site or facility. The Partner shall require all new volunteers to complete the ACPS screening at their orientation. For continuing Tutor/Mentor volunteers, the Partner shall ask each to complete the screening and shall work with ACPS to check that the volunteers have completed the screening.
- 12) **Conflict of Interest:** This Agreement incorporates by reference all Virginia or federal law related to ethics, conflicts of interest, or bribery, including, by way of illustration and not limitation, the Virginia State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (Code of Virginia § 2.2-3100 et seq.), the Virginia Governmental Frauds Act (Code of Virginia § 18.2-498.1 et seq.), and Articles 2 and 3 of Chapter 10 of Title 18.2 of the Code of Virginia, as amended (§ 18.2-438 et seq.). The Partner certifies that its offer was made without collusion or fraud and that it has not offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other contractor, supplier, manufacturer, or subcontractor and that it has not conferred on any public employee having official responsibility for this procurement any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services, or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged.
- 13) **Non-discrimination:** The Alexandria City School Board is committed to nondiscrimination with regard to race, color, gender, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, genetic information, pregnancy, marital status, status as a parent or political affiliation. This attitude will prevail in all of its policies concerning staff, students, educational programs and services, and individuals with whom the Board does business. Please direct all inquiries regarding ACPS' non-discrimination policies to: Alexandria City Public Schools, Chief Human Resources Officer, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.
- 14) **Indemnification and restitution by the Partner:** The Partner covenants for itself, its employees, representatives and agents to save, defend, hold harmless and indemnify ACPS, and all of its elected and appointed officials, officers, current and former employees, agents, departments, agencies, boards, and commissions (collectively the "ACPS" for purposes of this section) from and against any and all claims made by third parties or by ACPS for any and all losses, damages, injuries, fines, penalties, costs (including court costs and attorney's fees), charges, liability, demands or exposure, however caused, resulting from, arising out of, or in any way connected with the Partner's negligent acts or omissions, including the negligent acts or omissions of its employees and/or subcontractors, in performance or nonperformance of the work called for by the Partner Documents. This duty to save, defend, hold harmless and indemnify shall survive the termination of this Agreement. If, after notice by ACPS, the Partner fails or refuses to fulfill its obligations contained in this section, the Partner shall be liable for and reimburse ACPS for any and all expenses, including but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees incurred and any settlements or payments made. The Partner shall pay such expenses upon demand by ACPS and failure to do so may result in such amounts being withheld from any amounts due to Partner under this Agreement.

- 15) **Legal Compliance:** The Partner shall make every effort to emphasize to each staff member or employee involved with all ACPS activities the importance of conforming and adhering to all applicable executive orders, federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations and policies in effect which govern ACPS when performing services or engaging in activities pursuant to this Agreement.
- 16) **Certifications as to employees, etc.:** Partner agrees to direct its employees, agents or representatives engaging in activities on ACPS property pursuant to this Agreement to comply with ACPS Policy GBEA, concerning a drug-free workplace, for all work conducted on ACPS property. Partner certifies that neither it, nor any of its employees, representatives, or agents who will have direct contact with ACPS students or provide services on ACPS property has been convicted of: (i) a felony or any offense involving the sexual molestation or physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; and/or (ii) a crime of moral turpitude. Partner certifies that it does not, and shall not during the performance of this Agreement; knowingly employ an unauthorized alien as defined in the Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.
- 17) **Relationships of Parties:** Neither the Partner nor its employees, representatives, or agents, under any circumstances, is to be considered employees, servants or agents of ACPS. ACPS will not be legally responsible for any negligence or other wrong doings by Partner, its employees, representatives, or agents. ACPS will not withhold from payments to the Partner any federal or state unemployment taxes, federal or state income taxes, social security, taxes or any other amounts for benefits to the Partner or its students, representatives, agents, employees and/or faculty. Furthermore, ACPS will not provide to the Partner any insurance coverage or other benefits, including worker's compensation, normally provided by ACPS for its employees.
- 18) **Faith Based Organizations:** ACPS and Provider do not discriminate against faith-based organizations.
- 19) **Force Majeure:** The Provider shall not be held responsible for failure to perform the duties and responsibilities imposed by this Provider if such failure is due to fires, riots, rebellions, natural disasters, wars, or an act of God beyond control of the Contractor, and outside and beyond the scope of the Contractor's then current, by industry standards, disaster plan, that make performance impossible or illegal, unless otherwise specified in the Provider.
- 20) **Survival of Terms:** In addition to any numbered sections in this Agreement which specifically state that the term or paragraph survives the expiration or termination of this Agreement, the following sections if included in this Agreement also survive:

INDEMNIFICATION, RECORDS and USE OF TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS AND TRADE NAMES.

- 21) **Non-exclusivity of Remedies:** All remedies available to ACPS under this Agreement are cumulative, and no such remedy shall be exclusive of any other remedy available to ACPS at law or in equity.
- 22) **Amendments:** Unless otherwise specified herein, this Agreement shall not be amended except by written amendment executed by persons dully authorized to bind the Provider and ACPS

PROHIBITIONS


The Activities provided under this Agreement shall not involve or give the appearance of involving any activity, which pertains to any of the following:

- A. promotion of hostility or violence;
- B. an attack on ethnic, racial, or religious groups;
- C. discrimination prohibited by any law or School Board policy;
- D. promotion of the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms;
- E. promotion of sexual, obscene, or pornographic activities; or
- F. promotion of any image that is not in keeping with the established goals and purposes of the School Board;
- G. exploitation of any student or School Board employee;
- H. unauthorized collection of personal information, including names, addresses or telephone numbers of students or School Board employees because of the partnership; or
- I. arbitration; it is expressly agreed that nothing under this Agreement shall be subject to arbitration, and any references to arbitration are expressly deleted from this Agreement.

CONSENTED and AGREED TO BY:

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools

By:  E-SIGNED by Gregory Hutchings

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.
Superintendent


By: 

Ms. Catherine Estes
Co-Founder
catherineestes@hotmail.com

Date: July 01, 2019

Date: July 2, 2019

Cc: Missy Santoro Estabrook
missysantoro@yahoo.com

By:  E-SIGNED by James Bartlett

Mr. James Bartlett
Director, Health, Safety and Risk Management

Jodi Zand
jodizand@gmail.com
Baker-white
Bridget ~~Bakerwhite~~
Bridget.bakerwhite@gmail.com

Date: June 23, 2019


Initial: John Contreras

Cc: Kurt Huffman

Attachment A



ARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF PTAs

Arlington School Safety Forum
Gun Violence Prevention at Home, School and in
the Community

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 7pm-9pm
Yorktown HS – Patriot Hall Room 144

The Arlington CCPTA is sponsoring an open forum
including:

- the **National PTA** position on gun violence prevention
- a presentation from the **Be SMART** campaign to reduce child gun deaths
- a presentation from the **Arlington Public Schools Office of Emergency Management**
- a presentation from the **Arlington Partnership for Children Youth and Families** on mental health resources and how to talk to your children about their school safety concerns
- Q&A following each short presentation



CCPTA.APSVA.US

Attachment B

Sandy Hook Promise's Know the Signs Programs

https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/prevention_programs

1. Start with Hello
2. Say Something
3. SOS Signs of Suicide Prevention Program
4. Safety Assessment and Intervention

The image is a screenshot of the Sandy Hook Promise website. At the top left is the logo for Sandy Hook Promise, which features a tree and the text 'Sandy Hook PROMISE'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: 'ABOUT US', 'GET INVOLVED' (highlighted in a green box), 'GET THE FACTS', 'NEWS', and 'STORE'. Further right are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and a green button labeled 'DONATE NOW'. The main content area has a dark background with the text 'KNOW THE SIGNS PROGRAMS' in large white letters. Below this, a smaller line of text reads: 'Research-based programs and practices to help protect children from gun violence in your homes, schools and communities.' At the bottom of the page, there are five program icons with their respective names: 1. 'SOS SIGNS OF SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM' with an icon of a hand holding a sign; 2. 'SAY SOMETHING' with a speech bubble icon; 3. 'SAFETY ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION' with a warning triangle icon; 4. 'START WITH HELLO' with a circular icon containing the text 'START WITH Hello'; 5. 'KNOW THE SIGNS' with a circular icon containing a blue folder icon.



Start With Hello

Promoting Social Inclusion and Community Connectedness

<p>WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?</p>	<p>Social isolation is the feeling of being left out, lonely and treated like you are invisible. At every school and in every community there are children who feel like they have no friends and quietly suffer through each day.</p> <p>Young people who are isolated can become a victim of bullying, violence and/or depression. As a result, many further pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development and/or choose to hurt themselves or others.</p>
<p>WHAT IS THE PROGRAM</p>	<p>Start With Hello (SWH) teaches children and teens how to be more socially inclusive and connected to each other. SWH asks students, educators, parents and other community leaders who interact with children to take steps in class, the lunchroom and/or on the bus to be inclusive and connected. Simply,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEE someone alone - REACH OUT and help - START WITH HELLO <p>SWH is delivered in-house by SHP trainers or can be digitally downloaded. Training and digital toolkit and resource guide provide step-by-step guidance for students, teachers and community leaders to deliver events, activities and actions that instill the SWH concept and overarching message of inclusion and community.</p>
<p>WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE</p>	<p>Students ages 8-18, teachers, youth organizations and community leaders.</p>
<p>WHO WILL BENEFIT</p>	<p>SWH will have an immediate impact and benefit to children, faculty, administrators and community organization leaders involved with the program. Long-term, entire communities will benefit as generations move to greater inclusion and connectedness.</p>
<p>CORE LEARNING</p>	<p>The importance of inclusion and the tragic results that can result when people are excluded. Children, teachers and community leaders are given tools on how to break the ice, break down barriers and get to know one another (interpersonal interaction) as well as how to create and sustain an inclusive culture / community.</p>
<p>HOW TO GET STARTED AND COST</p>	<p>Contact programs@sandyhookpromise.org</p> <p>Sandy Hook Promise will work with individuals, schools and community-based organizations to offset 100% of the training cost in order to reach and impact as many lives as possible.</p>



Teaching Youth and Teens How to Recognize the Signs & Signals of At-Risk Behavior and Potential Threats in Social Media

<p>WHAT IS THE PROBLEM</p>	<p>Over the last 25 years, research has revealed that in 7 out of 10 acts of gun violence, a friend(s) were told that an act of violence would be committed or may take place. In one study, it was reported that in 4 out of 5 school shootings, the attacker had told people of his plans ahead of time.</p> <p>The problem is that no one is taking action with this information to stop the act of violence before it starts. Imagine if one of those people took action. How many tragedies could be prevented? How many lives would be saved?</p>
<p>WHAT IS THE PROGRAM</p>	<p><i>Say Something</i> is an education and awareness program that provides tools and practices to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognize the signs & signals of a potential threat – especially in social media - Teach and instill in participants how to take action with a trusted adult - Drive awareness and reinforce the need to Say Something
<p>WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE</p>	<p><i>Say Something</i> teaches and empowers youth, grades 6 – 12, how to recognize signs and signals, especially in social media, of an individual who may be a threat to themselves or others and reinforce the need to be an “upstander” and Say Something to a trusted adult BEFORE a tragedy takes place.</p>
<p>WHO WILL BENEFIT</p>	<p><i>Say Something</i> will benefit youth, educators, administrators, community based organization leaders and parents. By building a culture of “looking out for one another,” being an “upstander” and reporting possible threats of violence when someone sees, reads or hears something (especially within social media), entire communities will become safer and lives will be saved.</p>
<p>TRAINING CORE LEARNING</p>	<p><i>Say Something</i> informs and educates about observable warning signs (written, spoken, photographed, in video) that are often present in behavior that could lead to someone hurting themselves or others as well as educates individuals on how to safely and anonymously report potential threats. Additionally, the program provides tools on how best to promote and reinforce <i>Say Something</i>.</p>
<p>HOW TO GET STARTED AND COST</p>	<p>Contact programs@sandyhookpromise.org</p> <p>Sandy Hook Promise will work with individuals, schools and community-based organizations to offset 100% of the training cost in order to reach and impact as many lives as possible.</p>



An Evidence-Based Prevention Program to Help Youth Who May Be Depressed or Suicidal

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM	<p>Suicide is the second leading cause of death for American teenagers and many adolescents suffer in silence. Those who reach out for help tend to confide in their friends and peers, who are often unequipped to intervene. By teaching middle and high school students to recognize the warning signs of depression and suicide, we are building their capacity for empathy, social responsibility, and social activism, leading to safer schools and communities, and providing them with vital knowledge they can use for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>Suicide is preventable; everyone has a role in saving lives. Youths have a tremendous amount of influence in each other's lives, and we can leverage power that by teaching students the warning signs of depression and suicide. In doing so, youths are empowered to ACT, building safer schools and communities.</p>
WHAT IS THE PROGRAM	<p>At its core, the SOS Signs of Suicide Prevention Program (SOS Program) relies on three easy-to-remember steps, denoted by the acronym ACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that you are seeing warning signs and that it is serious • Care let your friend know how much you care about them • Tell a trusted adult that you are worried about your friend <p>The SOS program uses an educational curriculum to teach students to recognize the symptoms of depression and suicide, and can be implemented by existing school personnel within one class period. The main teaching tool is a video that shows dramatizations and real life stories of hope about the right and wrong ways to react when a friend exhibits certain behaviors. The program includes a mental health self-assessment that screens every student for depression and suicide. The program also includes training and educational materials for faculty, staff and parents.</p> <p>An enlightened student body means earlier detection and increased help-seeking behavior. Research has shown that the SOS Program, which is listed on SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, improves students' knowledge and adaptive attitudes about suicide risk and depression, and reduces actual suicide attempts by 40%-64% in randomized controlled studies (Asetline et al., 2007 & Schilling et al., 2016).</p>
WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE	<p>The SOS Program is designed for all middle and high school students. Additionally, school faculty and staff, parents, and community members receive training as trusted adults who have a critical role in reducing stigma, promoting help-seeking and responding to youth in need.</p>

<p>WHO WILL BENEFIT</p>	<p>Evidence-based suicide prevention programming benefits the entire community. Students and school staff learn critical and potentially life-saving skills, parents are encouraged to advocate for their children's health, and the community becomes more resilient overall.</p>
<p>TRAINING CORE LEARNING</p>	<p>Students learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-appropriate, fact-based information about suicide and the associated mental health concerns of depression, substance use, and self-injury • Messages of hope that encourage help-seeking because mental illness, like physical illness, requires treatment • Clear steps to take when worried about themselves or a friend (ACT: Acknowledge, Care, Tell) <p>Schools receive guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices in suicide prevention including universal student education and depression screening • Training for faculty and staff on warning signs, risk factors, and how to support a student in need • Strategies and tools for engaging parents in suicide prevention in-person and online
<p>HOW TO GET STARTED AND COST</p>	<p>Contact programs@sandyhookpromise.org</p> <p>Sandy Hook Promise will work with individuals, schools and community-based organizations to offset 100% of the training cost in order to reach and impact as many lives as possible.</p>



Safety Assessment & Intervention

An Evidence-based Prevention Program to Evaluate and Resolve Threatening Behaviors before They Escalate into Violence

<p>WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?</p>	<p>Every day in the United States there are more than 300 shootings resulting in injury or death.¹ SHP believes that gun violence can be prevented by identifying and helping individuals who display at-risk behaviors.</p> <p>Research has found that nearly all mass shooting attacks and many other shootings were carried out by individuals who made threats or engaged in threatening behavior that friends or family members observed.² We can prevent violence if we recognize threatening behavior and intervene to provide assistance before a personal crisis escalates into a shooting. Prevention should begin early, before guns are involved.</p> <p>SHP believes schools and community organizations should be trained to identify and assess individual threats, signs and signals and stop (gun) violence before it starts.</p>
<p>WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?</p>	<p><i>Safety Assessment & Intervention (SAI)</i> establishes and trains multidisciplinary teams within schools and community organizations to identify, assess, and respond to threats of violence, including: (a) identifying threats, signs, and behaviors leading to a violent act, (b) determining the seriousness of the threat, and (c) developing intervention plans that protect potential victims and <i>address the underlying problem or conflict</i> that initiated the behavior.</p> <p>SAI was developed by Dr. Dewey Cornell, a forensic clinical psychologist and Professor of Education at the University of Virginia. SAI is based on the Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines that have been evaluated in more than a decade of rigorous, controlled studies demonstrating their effectiveness. Recent studies show that SAI multidisciplinary teams have responded to thousands of student threats, distinguishing serious threats from minor misbehavior and taking appropriate steps to prevent violence.³ As a result, <i>SAI's Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines</i> have been recognized by the federal government's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices.⁴</p> <p>Dr. Cornell and his colleagues have trained thousands of school and community-based multidisciplinary teams in this method. SHP is partnering with Dr. Cornell to establish and scale this program nationwide.</p>
<p>WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?</p>	<p>Training is available for K-12 schools and community organizations. A school or community organization selects and sends its proposed team to this 8-hour training session. Typical multidisciplinary teams are made up of educators, school administrators, counselors, psychologists, social workers, community organization leaders, and resource officers.</p>

<p>WHO WILL BENEFIT?</p>	<p>At-risk youth will benefit from early intervention to identify problems and concerns, and most importantly, helping them access help. Threatening behavior is often a symptom of frustration, anger, or conflict that needs attention. Additionally, school and community-organization staff will benefit from increased safety and improved climate as well as legally defensible practices and procedures.</p> <p>Published research and reported findings show the following benefits:³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence reduction • Decreased bullying and aggression • Fewer out-of-school suspensions and school transfers • Reduced racial disparities in school suspensions • Increased willingness of students to seek help for threats of violence • Decreased staff anxiety about violence • Increased use of school counseling • Increased parental involvement • Students reported greater willingness to seek help for threats of violence
<p>TRAINING CORE LEARNING</p>	<p>Schools and community organizations will be able to establish multidisciplinary safety and support teams to identify, assess, and respond to threats of violence. Teams learn to use a decision tree to resolve most threats with only 1-2 team members, and to engage the full team for more serious threats.</p> <p>Research has shown that multidisciplinary teams can be trained with a one-day intensive workshop followed by adherence to a detailed threat assessment and intervention manual.³</p>
<p>HOW TO GET STARTED AND COST</p>	<p>Contact us at programs@sandyhookpromise.org</p> <p>Sandy Hook Promise will work with schools and community-based organizations to offset up to 100% of the training cost in order to reach and impact as many lives as possible.</p>

Footnotes:

- 1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics for nonfatal injuries are available at <<http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfirates2001.html>> and statistics for deaths are available at <<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/injury.htm>>
- 2 The FBI and Secret Service studies (see below)
- 3 Studies listed below
- 4 Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines is listed in the National Registry of Evidenced-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/ViewIntervention.aspx?id=263>

Footnote 2:

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Footnote 3:

- Cornell, D., Sheras, P., Kaplan, S., McConville, D., Douglass, J., Elkon, A., Knight, L., Branson, C., & Cole, J. (2004). Guidelines for student threat assessment: Field-test findings. *School Psychology Review*, 33, 527-546.
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ROANOKE [[HTTPS://WWW.WSL.COM/NEWS/VIRGINIA/ROANOKE](https://www.wsls.com/news/virginia/roanoke)]

Roanoke County sends letter to parents encouraging gun, drug lockup

'Family Safety Pledge' is new this year

By Jenna Zibton [<https://www.wsls.com/author/jzibton>] - Anchor

Posted: 4:00 AM, January 03, 2019

Updated: 4:00 AM, January 03, 2019

ROANOKE COUNTY, Va. - Roanoke County students return to class Thursday after the holiday break and school staff is hoping parents took time to make their homes safer.

A letter went to all parents at the end of the first semester saying in part: "During the holidays and throughout the year, unsecured weapons and prescription medications in the home can pose a serious threat to children. Securing these items and keeping them inaccessible to your children and other children can help save a life."

This is the first time a letter like this has gone out. It was a joint effort between Roanoke County Public Schools, Roanoke County Police, the sheriff's office, fire/EMS, and Vinton Police.

On the back was a copy of the Family Safety Pledge, which is also new this year.

The pledge includes keeping guns and prescription drugs locked up, in order to keep children from being victims of gun violence and prescription drug overdose at school, at home, and in the community.

You can find a link to the letter pledge here. [<https://www.rcps.us/Page/3367>]

Full text of the letter sent to parents:

"Dear Roanoke County Parent:

The safety of the children of Roanoke County is a top priority of Roanoke County Public Schools, Roanoke County Police Department, Roanoke County Sheriff's Office, Roanoke County Fire/EMS Department, and Vinton Police Department. During the holidays and throughout the year, unsecured weapons and prescription medications in the home can pose a serious threat to children. Securing these items and keeping them inaccessible to your children and other children can help save a life.

We encourage you to read the Family Safety Pledge found on the back of this letter and discuss its contents as a family. We invite you to sign the Family Safety Pledge and keep it as a reminder to keep firearms and prescription medications out of the reach of children.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our children and community safe.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a safe 2019."

Family Safety Pledge

Schools and teachers nationwide have been asked to secure our children's safety in impossible circumstances. We honor and appreciate the efforts school systems are making for student safety. The growing epidemic of gun violence is terrifying. We must acknowledge that most gun violence to American children and teens happens in their homes and communities. While the schools have and continue to make every effort, our community is equally accountable and must take all measures possible to prevent both intentional and accidental deaths associated with the use of unsecured firearms in the home.

The Goal of This Pledge is to reduce the likelihood any student who may be 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.

In acknowledgement of our shared community responsibility to keep children from endangering themselves or others, we, parents/guardians, pledge the following:

1. To keep firearms in our possession under lock and key and completely inaccessible to curious children and thieves. Guns will be locked and stored separately from ammunition. This is in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation.
2. 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/or guardians. Any access to firearms in this household by children will be directly supervised by a trusted and responsible adult.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature(s)

Date



Each year in the United States, nearly 260 children aged 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Nearly 600 more die by suicide with a gun each year. We have the power to prevent tragedies like these from happening. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America has developed the SMART framework to help parents and adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries.

DID YOU KNOW

4.6 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.

Nearly 260 children 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else—sometimes fatally.

Every year, **nearly 600** children 17 and under die by suicide with a gun.

SAFETY IS ALWAYS AN ADULT RESPONSIBILITY

Kids will be kids. They won't always make smart decisions about their own safety. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they've been told not to. If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. SMART adults protect kids by storing guns locked, unloaded and separately from ammunition, and by making sure children are never in the presence of unsecured guns.

OUR STORY

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched the Be SMART campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. The campaign focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage. Moms Demand Action volunteers encourage parents and caretakers to "Be SMART" and take these five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children: **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles; **Model** responsible behavior around guns; **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes; **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide; **Tell** your peers to be SMART.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and protect people from gun violence. Moms Demand Action campaigns for new and stronger solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our children and families. Since its inception after the tragedy at Sandy Hook School, Moms Demand Action has established a chapter in every state of the country and, along with Mayors Against Illegal Guns and the Everytown Survivor Network, it is part of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country with nearly 5 million supporters and more than 250,000 donors.

Secure all guns in your homes and vehicles;
Model responsible behavior around guns;
Ask about unsecured guns in other homes;
Recognize the role of guns in suicide;
Tell your peers to Be SMART

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

It's simple. Spread the Be SMART message. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of responsible gun storage, and get the word out in your community. Volunteers all over the country are available to deliver a 20-minute presentation entitled "Be SMART: A conversation about kids, guns and safety" to local groups and organizations.

Visit BeSMARTforKids.org to learn more and get involved. When it comes to kids' safety, we're all in this together!

For more information or to get involved visit www.momsdemandaction.org

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/BeSMARTforKids.org
or on [Twitter@MomsDemand](https://twitter.com/MomsDemand)

Attachment E

Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools (PSAs) Co-Founders

Alexandria City Public Schools

Contact Information

PSAs Co-Founder	Email	Phone
Bridget Baker-White	bridget.bakerwhite@gmail.com	253-266-7657
Missy Estabrook	missysantoro@yahoo.com	703-201-9238
Catherine Estes	catherineestes@hotmail.com	202-368-1169
Jodi Zand	jodizand@gmail.com	703-472-6221

ACPS Team Member	Position	Email	Phone
Mr. James Bartlett	Director of Health, Safety and Risk Management	james.bartlett@acps.k12.va.us	703-619-8038
Mr. John Contreras	Coordinator of Security and Emergency Management	john.contreras@acps.k12.va.us	703-619-8038
Dr. Julie Crawford	Chief Student Services Officer	Julie.crawford@acps.k12.va.us	703-619-8034
Ms. Helen Lloyd	Director of Communications	helen.lloyd@acps.k12.va.us	703-619-8003
Mr. Kurt Huffman	Director of School, Business and Community Partnerships	kurt.huffman@acps.k12.va.us	703-619-8055

Attachment F

ACPS Violence Prevention Plan Outline

Prevention Components

Intro language in this section could include: ACPS focuses on creating a safe and secure learning environment. While no plan can ensure that acts of violence would never occur, ACPS is committed to implementing informational programs and measures to reduce the chance of a dangerous incident involving gun violence, and violence in general. This Violence Prevention Plan will evolve as ACPS learns of, implements, and evaluates various programs and measures. Programs and measures to be implemented within ACPS division-wide are the following:

1. Annual Safety Forum open to the community and hosted at an ACPS school. *(Use Attachment A in ACPS-PSAs Partnership Agreement to write about some potential components)*
2. Sandy Hook Promise's "Know the Signs" Programs *(Use Attachment B in agreement for content to include regarding the 4 programs--see additional pages after first page of Attachment B)*
3. Annual letter/pledge/ACPS article/or other communication to ACPS families regarding locking up firearms in homes/vehicles *(see Attachment C in agreement for potential content here)*. May also refer to Wall Street Journal article in this section: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-school-shootings-most-guns-come-from-home-1522920600>
4. At minimum an annual ACPS co-hosting of Be SMART gun safety education program for community. *(Use Attachment D in agreement for potential content to include)*
5. Communication to ACPS community about National Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend in June each year to raise community awareness of the issue.