

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 2, 2022

For ACTION _____

For INFORMATION _____

Board Agenda: Yes _____

No _____

FROM: Susan Neilson, Clerk of the Board

THROUGH: Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Resolution Against Gun Violence

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:

n/a

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan

SUMMARY:

With the recent school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, it has again brought to the forefront the need for measures to protect our youth and families from gun violence. The Alexandria City School Board supports measures which would reduce gun violence that includes more effectively regulating access to firearms in the interest of public safety, increasing education efforts regarding gun ownership and funding for increased mental health supports in schools. This *Resolution Against Gun Violence* calls upon the United States Congress and the Virginia General Assembly to prioritize the protection of students and school division employees by passing legislation that will make a difference.

Since the School Board signed its original resolution in 2019, gun violence statistics have significantly increased:

- The number of children and teens shot and killed annually went from 1300 to 1800 and an additional 6300 are shot and injured;
- The number of children in the US that have experiences gun violence at school has risen from 153,000 to 311,000;
- The number of gun deaths per year in the United States has increased from 33,000 to over 45,000.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day is the first Friday in June (tomorrow) and Wear Orange

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Weekend will be celebrated from June 3rd through 5th. Orange has been the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement. Whether it is worn by students, activists, or loved ones, the color orange honors the more than 100 lives cut short, and the more than 320 wounded by gun violence every day.

Firearms remain the leading cause of death for American children and teens. During the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a rise in unintentional shootings by children and gunfire on school grounds. And in 2020, gun suicide among children ages 17 and under reached the highest rate in more than 20 years and firearms became the leading cause of death among children in the United States. The *Be SMART* program for safe gun storage encourages ACPS families to take five simple steps (Secure, Model, Ask, Recognize and Tell), normalize conversations about gun safety, and take responsible actions at home that will prevent child gun deaths and injuries.

BACKGROUND:

On June 6, 2019, the Alexandria City School Board signed the first *Resolution Against Gun Violence* to support measures to reduce the number of guns and eliminate gun violence in our communities. Each June the Board has reaffirmed their support of the resolution in anticipation of National Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend both celebrated during the first weekend in June.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board adopt the Resolution Against Gun Violence.

IMPACT:

By adopting this resolution, the School Board hopes to bring awareness to families in our community about the dangers of gun violence, provide resources and inform lawmakers about needed change.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution Against Gun Violence
2. Resources on Gun Safety, National Gun Violence Awareness, Wear Orange, ASK

REFERENCES:

[220520 Board Brief Resolution Against Gun Violence DRAFT](#)

CONTACT:

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