

Would giving teachers guns help protect schools from shooters?

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.26.18

Word Count **378**

Level **600L**



(From left) President Donald Trump and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students Carson Abt and Ariana Klein listen as Carson's father, Frederick Abt, speaks during a listening session with high school students, teachers and others at the White House in Washington, D.C., February 21, 2018. Photo by: Carolyn Kaster/AP Photo

Mass shootings happen in the United States more than in other countries. Last week, a shooter took 17 lives at a high school in Florida. People are now talking about how to better protect schools. Some want teachers to carry guns.

President Trump may support that idea. Some states are considering the idea as well.

Randi Weingarten is the leader of a large group of teachers. The group supports the needs of teachers. Weingarten said that arming teachers with handguns is a bad idea. The attackers often use much stronger guns. She instead wants to see those guns outlawed.

Other groups are also against the idea. One group trains school resource officers. This group does not think teachers could be trained to stop a shooter.

NRA Says Yes To Guns For Teachers

Wayne LaPierre is the leader of the NRA. The powerful group supports gun ownership.

The NRA wants teachers to carry guns. LaPierre thinks schools are not protected enough.

Some state lawmakers are considering new laws. They think that certain teachers should have guns. Teachers who were once in the military are an example.

California has taken the opposite position. Nonsecurity workers in California schools cannot carry guns on campus.

The public is also split on the idea. Almost half of Americans believe teachers with guns could have prevented the Florida shooting.

Parents Are Split On The Issue

Kasey Hansen is a teacher in Utah. She has a gun. She got the idea to arm herself after a shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. In that instance, 20 children and six adults died.

Tara Bordeaux is a teacher in Austin, Texas. She is comfortable with guns. However, she has doubts about her ability to use one in a school setting. "I don't have any instincts in me to be an officer of the law," she said. "My instincts are to be a teacher."

Brock Cartwright is a school leader in Claude, Texas. His district allows teachers to carry guns. Cartwright said armed teachers are just one part of a larger safety plan. They do emergency drills. They also work on better building security.

Parents are on both sides of the issue. Some think armed teachers would prevent schools from being targeted. Others think more guns are not the solution.

Quiz

- 1 What does the author of this article MOSTLY want to explain?
 - (A) President Trump's opinion about allowing teachers to have guns in school
 - (B) different ways schools help teachers protect students
 - (C) the reasons some people are for and others are against teachers having guns in school
 - (D) the large number of school shootings in the United States

- 2 Some Americans think teachers should have guns.
 WHY do they think this?
 - (A) They think teachers with guns could prevent school shootings.
 - (B) They think teachers with guns could replace school security officers.
 - (C) They think teachers with guns would plan better emergency drills.
 - (D) They think teachers with guns would be able to focus on teaching instead of safety.

- 3 Which detail from the article BEST supports the idea that teachers should NOT have guns?
 - (A) California has taken the opposite position. Nonsecurity workers in California schools cannot carry guns on campus.
 - (B) Tara Bordeaux is a teacher in Austin, Texas. She is comfortable with guns. However, she has doubts about her ability to use one in a school setting.
 - (C) His district allows teachers to carry guns. Cartwright said armed teachers are just one part of a larger safety plan.
 - (D) Some think armed teachers would prevent schools from being targeted. Others think more guns are not the solution.

- 4 According to the article, what is one problem with teachers having guns in school?
 - (A) Students would be scared of teachers with guns.
 - (B) Teachers could not be trained to stop school shootings.
 - (C) Teachers should not have to buy guns.
 - (D) Students might try to stop school shootings.