



Missouri Association of School Psychologists

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Best Practices Supporting School Safety Prepared by the Missouri Association of School Psychologists

Educational organizations including, but not limited to, the National Association of School Psychologists, the American School Counselor Association, the School Social Work Association of America, the Association of School Resource Officers, the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, support the following evidence based practices in the development of school safety plans:

1. Increasing access to mental health services and supports in school for all children
2. Developing safe and supportive school environments
3. Implementing school safety initiatives that consider both psychological and physical safety
4. Improving screening & threat assessment procedures to identify & meet the needs of individuals at risk for causing harm to themselves & others
5. Establishing trained school safety & crisis response teams
6. Increasing efforts to reduce the stigma around mental illness to promote mental health at the same level that physical health is promoted
7. Improving policies that limit exposure to media violence among children and youth
8. Reviewing and revising, as needed, current policies & legislation addressing access to firearms by those who have the potential to cause harm to themselves or others.

These evidence-based strategies and practices are designed to create safe, orderly, and welcoming learning environments. The Missouri Association of School Psychologists supports these evidence-based school practices. Allowing classroom teachers to carry firearms is not an evidence-based practice, and has the potential to cause harm to students, rather than protection. By supporting evidence-based strategies and practices, teachers can more effectively educate and prepare our youth to achieve their highest potential.

Resources:

Cowan, K.C., Vaillancourt, K., Rossen, E., & Pollitt, K. (2013). *A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools* [Brief]. Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

NASP Recommendations for Comprehensive School Safety Policies (2013). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.

NASP Cautions Against Arming School Personnel to Improve School Safety (2013). Bethesda, MD: National Association of School Psychologists.