

Envision | Issue Statement Paper

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Issue and Topic

Security Preparedness in K-12 Schools

Problem Statement

Since 2013, there have been over two hundred school shootings in the United States. This averages out to roughly one school shooting each week (Source 1). During the past couple of years, home schooling has increased two to eight percent per year (Source 2). One of the common reasons this has happened is that parents are concerned about the welfare and safety of their children in public schools (Source 3). There are parents that have had many worries because of there being a significant increase in school shooting incidents within the past five years.

Sustainable Solution

Schools that range from kindergarten through twelfth grade are vulnerable to the numerous dangers that negatively impact society. Gun violence is a major topic in politics, and it is a highly controversial issue to discuss. Ultimately, though, when weapons such as guns appear on campus in a predetermined act of violence, actions must be taken. If no action were taken, parents would be even more fearful to send their children to school. Also, this would cause students to not want to attend their school. Depending on how well students are prepared for dangerous situations can predispose thoughts of anxiety and fear. Because students and school employees are the people to potentially be in direct contact with the intruder, they are the major populations affected in the school shootings. The other populations who would be impacted are the parents, families, guardians, the community, the school board, and, eventually, the entire country as a whole. Similarly to how schools have a plan for fire drills, earthquake drills, tornado drills, or lockdown drills, K-12 schools need to be properly prepared and well-equipped in the event of an intruder invasion. Heightened security measures, the expansion of knowledge shared with each school's hierarchy and students, as well as the enlargement of the federal budget for education are all needed to fulfill this objective. In addition to these needs, children must feel safe attending school, and parents must regain their confidence in K-12 school security measures.

In order to successfully implement this policy, jobs in schools must be created, all school employees and students will be required to be educated on intruder safety, and

as a result of the creation of jobs, and other educational resources can be allocated. With the intention of sticking to the 2017 Federal budget, security officer positions for all K-12 schools must be created. The estimated 2017 Federal budget for Education Training, Employment, and Social Services is \$94,646,251,319, which is approximately three percent of the \$3.65 trillion of the overall Federal budget (Source 4). Another solution to enhance the safety of the children and staff of K-12 schools is to require that all school employees, such as nurses, administration, teachers, custodial staff, etc., be educated about active resistance. School employees must attend professional development sessions semi-annually. With every adult in the building informed, students will be able to gain a proper knowledge-base of what to do when there is an extreme situation.

Key Partners and Resources Needed

Possible partners that will be of great assistance to the schools in helping them take preventative and precautionary measures would be local police departments, S.W.A.T, F.B.I, C.I.A., and the U.S. Department of Defense. Some challenges related to this policy proposal would be school's resistance to changing current security protocol, and state and local governments might change their funding policies for their schools which could prevent the Federal government from being able to support all the new funding requests.

Timeline

Within two years' time it will be required that all K-12 school employees across the United States of America will have been trained on active resistance through professional development sessions. By the fourth year of the policy, 80% of all K-12 schools will have at least one security officer at their school. And then, in six years, 100% of all K-12 schools will have a minimum of one security officer. Therefore, we formally request the consideration of the implementation of this policy because the improvement of safety in schools is a necessity.

Research Sources

Source 1: <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>

Source 2: <http://www.nheri.org/research/research-facts-on-homeschooling.html>

Source 3: <http://www.croswell.com/family/homeschool/encouragement/top-10-reasons-parents-decide-to-homeschool.html>

Source 4: <http://federal-budget.insidegov.com//120/2017-Estimate>