



## **FAQ Related To Armed School Staff**

### **I have heard it is illegal for school staff to be armed on a K-12 campus. Is that true?**

It's legal in Colorado for school boards and charter school boards to authorize staff to carry a concealed handgun as a school security officer. The district usually has a contract with the employee to add the school security officer designation to their primary job duties. This employee could be a teacher, janitor, administrator, bus driver, food services worker, etc. Dozens of school districts in Colorado already do this today. The relevant section of the Colorado Revised Statutes that allows for this provision is 18-12-214, subsection 3B.

### **My child's teacher said she doesn't want to be armed. Would she be forced to?**

Of course no individual would be required to be armed. There is no one suggesting that all school staffers should be armed. When a school board authorizes armed staff, they ask for volunteers. Those volunteers are largely those who already conceal carry outside of their job.

### **If my child's school has a School Resource Officer (SRO) or other armed and uniformed security, is it necessary to have additional armed staff?**

We advocate for armed staff even in cases where there are SROs or other armed and uniformed security officers. If a school is big enough for an SRO it's a big school, and the SRO can't be everywhere at once. There is evidence that people planning large mass casualty events either have the SRO at the top of their "kill list" or they wait until the SRO is in a far away location. SROs need to leave the campus on occasion, leaving no one there to stop a killer. In the Arapahoe High School murder, the SRO took 45 seconds to get to the scene, causing the killer to take his own life. But Claire Davis had already lost her life. Having an armed defender as close as possible to the event provides the best chance to save lives.

### **My child's school said they would have liability if an armed staff member accidentally shot a student while trying to stop a killer. Is that true?**

Like anything that happens on a K-12 campus, school districts are covered for accidents on their property by their district insurance policy. Some district policies add on riders for each armed staff member, some don't. But I'd ask the school this: Do they prefer the killer is able to execute children and staff with no one there to stop him? Is the prospect of an accident while a brave, well-trained, armed staff member is trying to stop a deranged killer worse than having the killer remain unchecked? Also, ask the school to point to anywhere this has happened in the decades that school staff members have been armed across the country.

**My children are in a large suburban school district with a lot of armed and uniformed security guards. The district tells me their plan is enough to keep my children safe. I want more, like armed staff. How do I convince the district to listen to me?**

First, remember that your children are yours, and do not belong to the school district. In essence, you have hired the employees of the school district to educate your children and keep them safe. The school staff is acting *in loco parentis*, in other words, in the place of the parent. It is your job to make sure the school is doing what you wish them to do. If you aren't happy with the job they are doing, many states —including Colorado— allow parents to choose another school. When choosing a school for your child, ask about their ability to protect your child from an active killer situation.

**What is the training like for those who are authorized to carry on campus? We don't have the time to make these armed school staffers into cops.**

Armed school staffers don't need to be trained exactly like a police officer, but they do need to be as well trained as law enforcement when it comes to stopping an active killer. Districts with armed staff require significant initial training, as well as ongoing training. Training, such as that provided by FASTER, is tailored to stopping the killer and stopping the bleeding in the case of injuries. And they qualify at a higher level in handgun proficiency than police officers and Sheriff's deputies when they graduate from the academy.

**Budgets are so tight that some teachers are paying for their own supplies. How are we going to afford arming and training them?**

We look forward to the day when training for armed staff is considered so normal that the district training budget has money for it. After all, they are state employees who work in state buildings. Some districts set aside money for this type of training, but most don't have the budget for it. Our organization raises private money so that no armed staff member will have to go without this world-class training.