

Arming School Personnel Consensus Question Research

TOPIC 3: The Armed Personnel, Checks, and Training

6. The school personnel who will be armed should meet which of the following. Choose all that apply:

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|--------------|
| A. A full background check (history of violence, substance abuse history, mental health history, physical health history and criminal activity) | Yes | No | No Consensus |
| B. A concealed carry permit. | Yes | No | No Consensus |
| C. Approval by the superintendent in coordination with the Chief of Police | Yes | No | No Consensus |
| D. School personnel will take on-going training. | Yes | No | No Consensus |
| E. Self-identified volunteer employed by the school. | Yes | No | No Consensus |
| F. Arming school personnel should not be permitted. | Yes | No | No Consensus |

Research:

Twenty-six states either allow teachers to carry weapons in schools with concealed carry permits, or leave the decisions to the school district. These decisions also include how much training said school personnel would receive, and also the policies that would be put in place to protect the safety of the firearm holder and the students.

In the case of Lakota East High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, School Resource Officers (SRO) are now being trained to act alone in an active shooter situation, which is different from previous training that mandated they wait for backup before acting. This change occurred after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in 2018.

<https://gunsandamerica.org/story/19/03/22/with-no-national-standards-policies-for-arming-teachers-are-often-left-to-local-school-districts/>

Members of the police and many school administrators have voiced their reservations about arming teachers. Specifically, these officials are worried about the increase of accidental shootings, and the increase of school related violence that may arise with the arming of school personnel.

Researchers Note: Please see Question #9 for weapons effect research.

Many firearm training programs that school personnel must complete in order to carry a weapon in school leave the decisions for the presence of guns in schools up to the districts. It should be noted that there is no standard curriculum for these training programs at this time, and training programs that are given by outside companies hired by districts can often cost up to \$1,200. Teachers with Guns: Research Report Final

<http://homicidecenter.org/publication/teachers-with-guns-research-report-final-revised-2018-pdf/>

Comments:

7. Who should determine the firearm training requirements such as frequency, length, content, certification, trainer qualifications, continuing education etc.) for the training of armed school personnel?

- A. State governments should mandate the requirements for training programs.
- B. Appropriate state law enforcement agencies
- C. Individual school districts
- D. Arming school personnel should not be permitted.

Research:

Ohio Senate Bill 317 was introduced to the Ohio House on May 26, 2020. The title of this bill reads, “To amend section 109.78 of the Revised Code to expressly exempt, from a requirement that peace officer basic training be obtained, certain employees that a board of education or governing body of a school authorizes to go armed in a school safety zone within which the board or governing body has authority.” In short, this bill would allow any school personnel who was approved by their school board to carry a firearm and use in case of emergency without the required standard amount of training.
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-SB-317>

Researchers Note: Please see Question #2 for an update on SB 317.

According to the UN Peacekeeping PDT Standards for Formed Police Units, for a basic level of training, officers should be completing 24 hours of firearm training, which includes 3 hours of lecture, 13 hours of dry practice, and 8 hours of range practice. The study notes that officers should not be able to move on from this level of training until they are deemed competent with handling a firearm. The training also asks officers to consider the “four golden rules” of firearms safety. These include: always consider all firearms loaded, keep your weapon pointed in a safe direction until you intend to shoot, keep your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until you intend to shoot, and be sure of your target and what is beyond. Given that many police officers complete even more firearm training than this, it should be considered how this would translate to someone whose formal training did not include them being put in active shooter situations, like school personnel.

Firearms Training Document

<http://dag.un.org/bitstream/handle/11176/387388/1.%20Firearms%20Basic.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Two widely used forms of school firearm training have been ALICE and FASTER training. While ALICE focuses more on the lockdown procedure should a school encounter an active shooter, FASTER is a training program that puts teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a more active role should the school encounter a threat. Below are our studies definitions of these terms and links to their programs’ websites. It should also be noted that in order for a person to obtain a conceal and carry permit in Ohio, the law requires them to complete a total training time of 8 hours with a minimum of 2 hours of in-personal training that consists of range time and live-fire training. Additionally, the Ohio School Board Association does not have a negative or affirmative stance on the arming of school personnel, instead, they have taken the stance to leave said decisions up to the districts, and have outlined their own plan to overcome active shooter threats, entitled PPRR, or Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recover.

ALICE Training - ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. A training program started in 2000 by a law enforcement officer and his wife, a school principal.

<https://www.alicetraining.com/about-us/>

FASTER Training - FASTER stands for Faculty / Administrator Safety Training & Emergency Response. Created by concerned parents, law enforcement, and nationally-recognized safety and medical experts, FASTER is a groundbreaking, nonprofit program that gives educators practical violence response training.

<https://fastersaveslives.org>

PPRR - Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recover. The Ohio School Boards Association core components of school safety and security.

<https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sites/default/files/ProtectingOhioSchoolchildren.pdf>