



What North Carolina Teachers Think about Guns in Schools

Survey of Public School Teachers in North Carolina
February 28th - March 5th, 2018

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Survey Overview

In partnership with the Raleigh News & Observer, the Elon University Poll conducted a representative survey of public K-12 teachers in North Carolina between February 28th and March 5th, 2018.

The survey was conducted using a list sample of teachers and two modes of contact: email and live-interviewer telephone (cell phone and landline). The sample size for the combined modes is 379 with a margin of error of +/- 5.03%. Teachers in this survey were identified using a combination of state pension system and voter registration records. All teachers interviewed were registered North Carolina voters.

The purpose of this survey was to measure North Carolina public school teachers' opinions about carrying guns in school. In the wake of the February 14th shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, several states have considered arming teachers as a school safety measure.

In our survey, teachers were asked whether they think allowing teachers to carry guns is a good or bad idea, the effect on the learning environment, if they themselves would want to carry a gun, and about their own experience and skill level with firearms. Additionally, teachers were asked if they would support a variety of other possible policy reforms related to increased school security. The results for each of these questions are provided in this report.

Topline Results

Good or Bad Idea to Arm Teachers?¹

Recently, there has been national discussion about allowing teachers to carry guns to school in response to school shootings. Overall, do you think allowing teachers to carry guns to your school is mostly a good idea or mostly a bad idea?

Bad Idea	297.....	78.20%
Good Idea.....	66.....	17.50%
Don't Know	16.....	4.20%
N=	379.....	100.00%

Would You Carry a Gun?

Would you carry a gun to your classroom if you were allowed to do so?

Yes	59.....	15.50%
Maybe	36.....	9.50%
No.....	279.....	73.90%
Don't Know	4.....	1.10%
N=	378.....	100.00%

Fall into Wrong Hands

How likely do you think it would be for a gun carried by a teacher at your school to accidentally fall into the wrong hands?

Likely	250.....	68.40%
Neither likely nor unlikely	19.....	5.10%
Unlikely.....	87.....	23.90%
Don't Know	9.....	2.60%
N=	365.....	100.00%

¹ If they initially answered “Don’t Know,” they were asked again to make a guess. This applied to only 2% of those interviewed.

Effect on Learning Environment

Would teachers carrying guns to your school mostly help or mostly harm the overall learning environment at your school?

Mostly help	37.....	9.90%
Mostly harm	246.....	65.20%
No effect.....	84.....	22.30%
Don't Know [don't read]	10.....	2.60%
N=	378.....	100.00%

Feelings of Safety

How would your feelings of safety change if teachers in your school were allowed to carry guns?

More safe	89.....	23.40%
No difference	53.....	14.00%
Less Safe	75.....	61.20%
Don't know [don't read]	5.....	1.40%
N=	378.....	100.00%

Increase or Decrease Deaths

In general, do you think arming teachers would lead to an overall decrease or overall increase in gun-related deaths within American public schools?

Increase	173.....	51.30%
No Difference.....	64.....	18.90%
Decrease	75.....	22.10%
Don't Know	26.....	7.70%
N=	338.....	100.00%

How Many Could Stop Shooting

Thinking of other teachers in your school, how many of them do you think could reliably stop a school shooting if they carried a gun while on campus?

*Online only:

Most	4.....	1.80%
Some	22.....	10.10%
A few.....	103.....	46.20%
None.....	93.....	42.00%
N=	222.....	100.00%

Under Limited Circumstances

Imagine a policy proposal in which:

- Only a few teachers in each school were allowed to carry guns
- These teachers were selected based on prior experience with security
- Each selected teacher was required to undergo extensive training, evaluation and certification.

Overall, do you think allowing teachers to carry guns to your school under these limited circumstances is mostly a good idea or mostly a bad idea?

*Online only:

Mostly a Good Idea.....	63.....	31.30%
Mostly a Bad Idea	137.....	68.70%
N=	200.....	100.00%

Experience with Firearms & Skill Level

Have you personally ever used a firearm, at a shooting range or elsewhere?

[if yes to above] How would you rate your own personal skill when it comes to handgun use?

*Online only:

Highly skilled.....	27.....	12.30%
Somewhat skilled.....	52.....	23.60%
Not very skilled.....	32.....	14.50%
Not at all skilled.....	24.....	10.90%
Never fired gun	85.....	38.60%
N=	220.....	100.00%

Support for Alternative School Security Measures

Below are some other potential proposals related to school security, for each, please indicate if you feel favorable or unfavorable you towards the proposal.

* Online only:

	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable
Banning sales of semi-automatic high capacity rifles	77.2%	9.1%	13.7%
Ensuring background checks on all gun sales	99.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Mandating at least two armed police officers be present in every school at all times	65.4%	24.4%	10.2%
Adding high security measures in schools along the lines of airports	50.0%	28.2%	21.8%
Providing free bulletproof backpacks to students	31.0%	35.7%	33.3%
Increasing federal funds to states for local decisions about school security	79.6%	15.5%	4.9%
Enhanced training for emergency situations	87.6%	10.8%	1.6%
Increased support for mental health funding	92.4%	6.6%	1.0%

Sample and Population Characteristics

		Sample (Weighted)	Population
Race	White	81.1%	81.1%
	Not white	18.9%	18.9%
Sex	Male	20.5%	20.5%
	Female	79.5%	79.5%
School Level	Elementary & Middle	70.8%	70.8%
	High School	29.2%	29.2%
Age	49 or younger	71.5%	71.5%
	50 or older	28.5%	28.5%
District Region	Eastern NC	29.7%	29.7%
	Piedmont	57.1%	57.1%
	Western NC	13.2%	13.2%
County Type (Their School District)	Urban	32.3%	32.3%
	Suburban	26.3%	26.3%
	Rural	41.4%	41.4%
School Setting (Teacher Perception)	Urban	24.6%	Unknown
	Suburban	32.8%	
	Rural	40.8%	
Party Identification (Self-Reported)	Democrat	35.6%	Unknown
	Independent	43.6%	
	Republican	20.8%	

Notes. See methodology section for further details about how the sample was weighted and how the population parameters were determined.

Question Order

Introduction

- Confirmation of identity
- Consent
- Confirmation of status as a school teacher
- Introduction to the survey

Opinions about Arming Teachers

- Good or bad idea to arm teachers
- Effect on your feelings of safety
- Would it increase gun-related deaths
- Would you carry a gun
- Online Only:
 - Have you ever used a firearm
 - Self-assessed skill at using a firearm
 - Could any teachers you know stop a school shooting
- Likelihood a firearm would fall into the wrong hands
- Effect on learning environment
- Online Only:
 - Support for arming teachers under limited circumstances
 - Support for alternative school security measures

Demographics

- School type: urban, rural, suburban
- Level of school taught
- Gender (online only, interviewer assessed for phone interviews)
- Race (online only, voter file used for phone interviews)
- Age
- Party Identification
- Ideological Leaning

Cross Tabulations

Good or Bad Idea to Arm Teachers?

Recently, there has been national discussion about allowing teachers to carry guns to school in response to school shootings. Overall, do you think allowing teachers to carry guns to your school is mostly a good idea or mostly a bad idea?

	Bad Idea %	Good Idea %	Don't Know %	Total %
Overall	78	18	4	100
49 or younger	76	18	6	100
50 or older	78	19	3	100
Eastern NC	75	19	6	100
Piedmont	77	19	4	100
Western NC	83	15	3	100
Not White	91	8	1	100
White	75	20	5	100
Male	75	21	4	100
Female	78	18	5	100
Democrats	95	5	0	100
Independents	78	19	4	100
Republicans	57	36	6	100
Urban school	81	17	2	100
Suburban school	78	20	2	100
Rural school	78	18	5	100
Teach other students	76	20	5	100
Teach high school students	80	16	4	100
Would carry a gun	14	79	7	100
Would not	95	3	1	100

Note. The region used in this table is based on what county they teach in. The school setting used in this table, urban, suburban, or rural, is based on the teacher's own perceptions.

Would You Carry A Gun?

Would you carry a gun to your classroom if you were allowed to do so?

	Yes %	Maybe %	No %	Total %
Overall	15	10	75	100
49 or younger	16	14	70	100
50 or older	13	7	80	100
Eastern NC	22	12	67	100
Piedmont	14	9	76	100
Western NC	4	13	83	100
Not White	4	13	83	100
White	17	10	73	100
Male	18	14	69	100
Female	14	9	76	100
Democrats	4	4	92	100
Independents	16	13	71	100
Republicans	29	12	59	100
Urban school	11	6	83	100
Suburban school	19	7	73	100
Rural school	14	12	75	100
Teach other students	16	9	73	100
Teach high schools students	12	10	78	100
Arming teachers a bad idea	3	5	92	100
Arming teachers a good idea	63	23	14	100

Note. The region used in this table is based on what county they teach in. The school setting used in this table, urban, suburban, or rural, is based on the teacher's own perceptions.

Increase or Decrease Deaths

In general, do you think arming teachers would lead to an overall decrease or overall increase in gun-related deaths within American public schools?

	Increase %	No Difference %	Decrease %	Don't Know %	Total %
Overall	51	19	22	8	100
49 or younger	48	20	24	8	100
50 or older	48	20	24	8	100
Eastern NC	43	18	27	12	100
Piedmont	50	21	25	5	100
Western NC	52	20	14	14	100
Not White	67	12	12	9	100
White	45	21	26	8	100
Male	47	19	30	4	100
Female	49	20	23	9	100
Democrats	75	16	6	3	100
Independents	46	19	27	7	100
Republicans	21	25	42	12	100
Urban school	59	20	17	5	100
Suburban school	50	20	23	7	100
Rural school	46	20	25	8	100
Teach other students	46	21	25	7	100
Teach high school students	52	17	21	9	100
Arming teachers a bad idea	61	23	7	9	100
Arming teachers a good idea	6	2	90	1	100

Note. The region used in this table is based on what county they teach in. The school setting used in this table, urban, suburban, or rural, is based on the teacher's own perceptions.

Effect on Learning Environment

Would teachers carrying guns to your school mostly help or mostly harm the overall learning environment at your school?

	Mostly help %	Mostly harm %	No effect %	Don't Know %	Total %
Overall	10	65	22	3	100
49 or younger	10	64	23	3	100
50 or older	11	62	23	4	100
Eastern NC	10	57	27	6	100
Piedmont	11	64	23	2	100
Western NC	7	69	19	5	100
Not White	7	80	9	3	100
White	11	60	25	4	100
Male	10	60	27	3	100
Female	11	63	22	4	100
Democrats	5	88	7	0	100
Independents	13	59	26	3	100
Republicans	15	40	39	6	100
Urban school	11	69	19	1	100
Suburban school	13	67	19	1	100
Rural school	10	60	27	4	100
Teach other students	10	62	24	4	100
Teach high school students	11	64	23	2	100
Arming teachers a bad idea	2	79	16	3	100
Arming teachers a good idea	47	6	43	3	100

Note. The region used in this table is based on what county they teach in. The school setting used in this table, urban, suburban, or rural, is based on the teacher's own perceptions.

Methodological Information

Mode:	Telephone (LL + Cell) and Email
Population:	Public School Teachers in North Carolina
Dates in the field:	February 28 th – March 5 th , 2018
Sample Size:	379 total (227 email, 152 telephone)
Margin of Error:	+/- 5.03% (+/- 6.6% for email sample only questions)
Confidence Level:	95%
Weighting Variables:	Race, Gender, Age, County Density, State Region, Level of School

Procedure

For this survey, the Elon University Poll used a list of teacher names obtained by the Raleigh News & Observer based on NC Treasurer's Office pension records as of 12/31/16. Any active public employee who was part of the state pension system at that time was included in the list. This list was then reduced to those who were classified as “Education Professionals” in pension records. A few matched names may have been very recently retired teachers, though a screening question was in place to limit recent retirees.

A sample of these names was fuzzy matched against the North Carolina State Board of Elections voter registration file based on name and age. Consequently, all teachers in this survey were also registered voters. Email addresses and cell phone and landline numbers were then appended to this list by Marketing Systems Group.

For the administration of the email survey, the Elon University Poll used Qualtrics. We sent one reminder email on Friday March 2nd. We only interviewed teachers in North Carolina who are over 18, confirming the name of the teacher in the sample. A survey was considered complete only if a respondent progressed through the entire survey.

Telephone interviews were conducted on Monday, March 5, 2018 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Some questions were not included in the telephone survey due to length considerations. These are marked above as online only.

Weighting

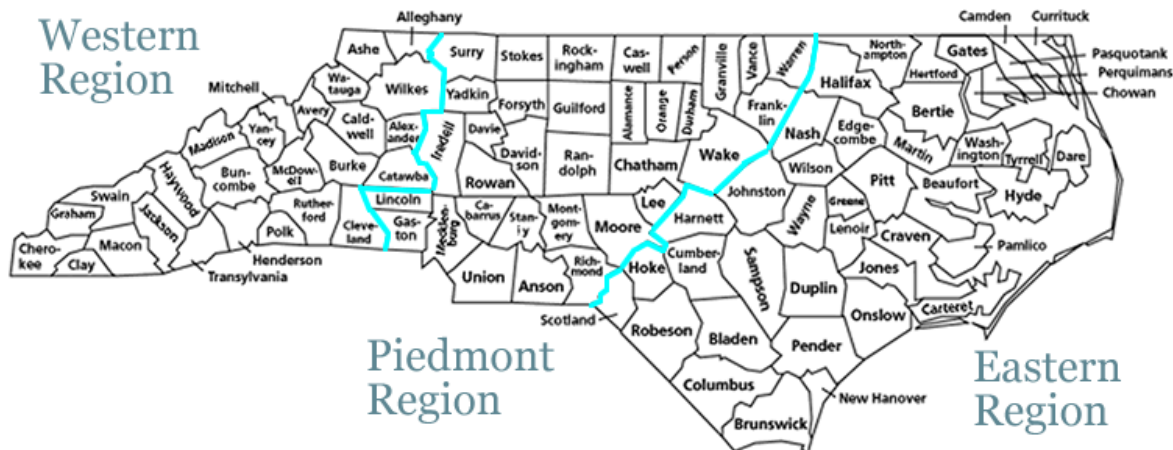
Weights were generated using a technique known as iterative proportional fitting, also known as raking. We typically weight results from the Elon University Poll on multiple demographic characteristics. In the case of this survey, our target population was public school teachers in North Carolina.

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The weight variables were race, gender, age, level of school, region and county density. Each variable was weighted to match relative proportions of current teachers in North Carolina.

Target population statistics for race, gender and school level were derived from the UNC Educator Quality Dashboard.² These data reflect the 2014-2015 school year. Because this population data does not fully distinguish Elementary school from middle school. These two categories were combined for weighting only.

Region was calculated based on the proportion of teachers in each county within the state pension records from 12/31/16. Regions were assigned according to the map below from the UNC library. There are a handful of statewide institutions in the state (0.19% of those in the pension records). These institutions were classified as part of Wake County.



County type is based on 2014 U.S. Census Population density estimates (Rural 750/sq. mile.; Suburban 250-750/sq. mile; Urban >750/sq. mile). A map of density by county is available from the NC Rural Center.³

Age of teachers was derived from 2012 National Center for Education Statistics School and Staffing Survey.⁴

A teacher could teach in a rural school that is located in an urban area. Cross-tabs are based on teacher’s perception of the where the school is located. Weighting is based on the county density of the county where the school district is located.

² <http://eqdashboard.northcarolina.edu/demographics-of-nc-public-school-teachers/>

³ <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/about-us/754/>

⁴ https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/sass/tables/sass1112_2013314_t1s_002.asp

 **ELON** POLL*Support for Transparency*

The Elon University Poll supports transparency in survey research and is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative, which is a program promoting openness and transparency about survey research methods and operations among survey research professionals and the industry. All information about the Elon University Poll that we released to the public conforms to reporting conventions recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research and the National Council on Public Polls.

Question Construction and Question Order

In releasing survey results, the Elon University Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which respondents receive these questions. In some cases, question ordering rotates to avoid biases.

In an effort to provide neutral, non-biased questions, we attempt to observe conventional question wording and question order protocols in all of our polls. In order to avoid recency or primacy effects, we randomize candidate names within the text of each question. We pretest every questionnaire multiple times before entering the field.

Branching Questions

For questions with multiple response options, we often program our surveys to branch into a secondary probing question.

“Don’t Know” & “Refused” Response Options

Where appropriate, all opinion questions include an option for respondents to select “Don’t Know” or to refuse to answer. Respondents were permitted to exit the survey at any time.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who pays for the Elon University Poll?

Elon University fully funds the Elon University Poll. The poll operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, led by Dean Gabie Smith.

The Elon University administration, led by Dr. Connie Book, president of the university, fully supports the Elon University Poll as part of its service to the community.

Because of this generous support, the Elon University poll does not engage in any contract work. This permits the Elon University Poll to operate as a neutral, non-biased, non-partisan resource.

2. Does the Elon University Poll favor a certain party?

The Elon University Poll is an academic, non-partisan survey. We do not engage or work with any political candidates or parties. We employ best practices to ensure the results are not biased.

3. Did you weight the data?

Yes. We apply weights to the data. For this survey, an iterative proportional fitting algorithm generated weights based on North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Data.

4. How are students involved in the Elon University Poll?

Elon University students conduct telephone interviews.

Open-Ended Comments from NC Public School Teachers

The following are open-ended comments written by teachers who participated in the email mode of the survey. They were prompted by, “If you'd like to share anything about this survey with us, feel free to do so below. Otherwise, select next to complete the survey.”

These quotes have been edited only to ensure privacy and for minor typographical errors given that some survey were conducted on mobile devices. Gender, school setting, party identification and the teachers’ responses to two questions are at the bottom of each respective quote for context. The order of quotes was randomized.

All record quotes about gun policy are included below. We did not selectively remove any quotes unless they were about the survey logistics and not about policy attitudes.

1. I'm slowly watching the country I love turn into the wild west, and it frightens me to think of the type of future we're creating for our students. I identify more with conservatives than I do liberals, and I feel the pro gun populace needs to give a little or risk losing everything. I own 3 single bolt action rifles and have fantastic aim in case of home invasion. I don't want to lose that ability to protect my home. There's no need for 30+ rounds. Either these people arguing their need for semi automatic weaponry need better aim, or need to speak with their dept of forestry if it's an issue of protecting livestock.
 - a. *Female, Republican teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

2. I am open to carrying a weapon at school, but, honestly, I don't want to. If it would save lives and help protect my students and I, I am willing. I just don't know how I feel about students in that environment.
 - a. *Male, Republican teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would maybe carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

3. I am really torn on teachers having guns. Part of me says yes but then I feel in some areas there might be crime looking for the guns the teachers have.
 - a. *Female, Democrat teacher in a rural school. Not sure what she thinks about arming teachers, and would carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

4. An issue regarding teachers and guns in school that has not been addressed is what happens to the students/coverage of classes when said teacher is out trying to play the hero?
 - a. *Female, Independent teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

5. Arming any teachers at schools is a bad idea!!! I've seen all kinds of vandalism and break ins, and kids get their hands on wrong things all the time!!!
 - a. *Female, Democrat teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

6. I dislike guns and think that only people who are trained like military or law enforcement should have access to guns. I am so sick of this country investing in worthless security measures that don't protect anyone instead of increase awareness to others about safety and proper education. I don't know when these stupid politicians will get it through their skulls that guns don't need to go into the hands of anyone. There are a lot of sick people who go undiagnosed with mental health issues and may cause harm to themselves or others. I am so sick of this crap and now they want to arm teachers. The day they issue this law to allow teachers to carry I will resign and pull my kids out of school.
 - a. *Female, Democrat teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

7. Exactly what need is there for an assault weapon in our country? We are way out of line here, and it's a shame that these young adults have more common sense than these paid politicians. But of course, they are not NRA, paying off these crooked politicians to meet their agenda, which of course is to sell, sell, sell more weapons. Wow, what a price!
 - a. *Male, Republican teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

8. Guns have no business in our schools. Our job is to teach, not to guard. If you feel like we need more guards, find the money and hire them.
 - a. *Female, Independent teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

9. Everyone is focusing on the guns. No one is talking about all of the years of the students' lives leading up to the event that influenced the decisions made in that moment. People want to blame parents, but the shootings aren't happening in the homes, they're happening at the schools because schools are the stress point. Education is the problem. How we are educating students is the problem. They do not have time to learn to deal with conflict, have meaningful conversations, solve social issues between themselves and they look to adults to solve their problems because we've done it for them for years because it is faster and we don't have time to let them work it out for themselves: We have too many tests for which we must prepare and take. At the middle school and high school levels, there is no recess or free time and lunch - if they have it - is 20 or 25 minutes. Teachers would love to get to know students and their families. That is difficult to do under the constraints of current education and community situations. These shootings are the sad result of overstressed children taught by overworked teachers who cannot be all things to all people. More policemen might help once the bullets begin to fly, but it won't prevent them from flying in the first place.

a. Female, Independent teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

10. Guns our not the answer. We can identify the kids with problems at a young age, but we just push them along instead of getting them help. Teacher are very underpaid and we are better off on welfare.

a. Female, Republican teacher in a rural school. Not sure what she thinks arming teachers, and would carry a firearm to school if allowed.

11. I feel the first line of protection is increasing mental health funding including but not limited to opening up homes for mentally ill, more mental health facilities, and overall a focus on mental health. I feel that teachers carrying guns on campus does make sense but there has to be a solid program in place to make it safe for all.

a. Female, Independent teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would carry a firearm to school if allowed.

12. A number of things need to be done to enhance school security. Our new construction buildings need to be built up (multi-story) instead of out, and campuses must be more compact with fewer entry points. 1st floors should have transom windows only. And the main building complex should have a fence around the perimeter. Right now the only thing fenced in is the athletic fields at high schools. Teachers with the right training should be allowed to conceal-carry, but they should be limited in how they are allowed to engage. Lock down your classroom and stay in there with your students. If a shooter seeks to enter your room, then use your weapon. But it would not be wise for teachers to engage an active shooter in a hallway with other students nearby, or in a way that makes it difficult for a law enforcement officer to distinguish between them and the active shooter. But others can conceal carry too, and among them are ROTC officers on high school campuses.

a. Female, Independent teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would maybe carry a firearm to school if allowed.

13. I teach in a liberal world and those that are conservative are quiet about there politics and libs' strong voice intimidate.

a. Female, Republican teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would carry a firearm to school if allowed.

14. I teach Kindergarten. I am a great sharpshooter, but I would never want my students to see me kill someone. I do see that my skills are handy, and I do respond well under pressure. I feel my job is to protect them, but I am not sure a gun is the best way.

a. Female, Democrat teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

15. I think arming teachers is a terrible idea and I would not only leave the profession if it happens but also pull my own children from public school or any school with armed teachers. We have way too much on our plates already, being even more responsible for others lives more so than we are already is not wise at all.

a. Female, Independent teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

16. I think just the idea that teachers might have a gun would be a deterrent to some school shootings, but as the law stands now; everyone KNOWS there are NO GUNS on school grounds. It is an open invitation for violence to be perpetuated on our children.
- a. Female, Independent teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
17. I think that those people who want guns are not going to wait and purchase them legally. I also don't think that more background checks are going to help those that go to purchase a gun legally. But on the other side of that, I do not see the need for semi-automatic or automatic weapons in the hands of anyone by law enforcement or military.
- a. Female, Republican teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
18. I think there are other things that can be done to help teachers protect our students in the event of a threat on campus. There has been research on putting fire extinguishers in all classes and teaching the teachers what they can do with them in the case of an emergency. I think that is more favorable than arming teachers with guns.
- a. Female, Republican teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
19. I truly believe that we as a country need to be proactive, not reactive. Teachers needing to use guns in schools means that we have not set parameters in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- a. Female, Republican teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
20. I would like to see the NRA pay for bullet proof doors and windows and glass doors and that the security at the front doors be stricter. They let almost anyone into the school even with a buzzer. Lots of foot traffic. Also, the trailers outside are unsafe and the doors are often propped open. The answer is truly banning assault rifles because they are military weapons used for killing people and have no place flooding our streets. Since the NRA controls our present government through lobbying and pay offs they should be made to pay for the damage they have inflicted upon society, much like the tobacco industry was sued to do.
- a. Female, Democrat teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

21. Increasing security at school is favorable. Not for our pre-k through 5th graders necessarily but for parents and teens. I'm scared of strangers getting access to school property not the kids. Also, if teachers, police officers, and other administrators would take mental health and bullying into consideration and offer professional development on how to handle certain students who are victims, bullies themselves, or suffering from a mental health condition. These measures could make schools in general become safer as a whole environment. We don't need to make kids scared of school, we need them to know it's a safe learning environment where they are wanted and appreciated without letting them get away with behaviors that affect their peers.
- a. *Female, Republican teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
22. It would be amazing if you could do a survey similar to this for students. Many of our students are terrified of the idea of teachers carrying guns to school--they know their classmates and they know that if an accident were to happen that they would be at risk.
- a. *Female, Democrat teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
23. Looks like students and young people will help the movement for gun reform and reasonable regulation for our society. I applaud their efforts.
- a. *Male, Democrat teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
24. Only teachers with extensive training should be allowed to carry guns. The shooters are not going to shoot up a school where they are going to have immediate resistance. Shootings would come to a complete stop.
- a. *Male, Democrat teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would maybe carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
25. Please don't ask teachers to shoot at another person. We are to teach curriculum and social skills. It isn't fair to have teachers training to shoot.
- a. *Female, Democrat teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

26. My major concern is the mental health problem that exists in every public school in the U.S. Teachers and Staff put forth a significant amount of time dealing with students who have mental health problems. These students with mental health problems create situations that are unsafe to other students WITHOUT the presence of a handgun being in the vicinity. It is difficult to deal with these unsafe situations that stem from mental health because Administrators are unable to expel and provide reasonable consequences to students because of laws and legislation that "protects" every child whether they have a mental health problem or not. It takes YEARS to properly place students in the correct environment and teachers suffer for years trying to keep others safe while having this threat in class. This threat only increase when there is a firearm present. I would not feel safe carrying a gun knowing that there are students who want to harm others (teachers and students) in my surroundings.
- a. Male, Independent teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
27. Overall I don't think teachers should be armed however if they have extensive training in gun safety and were willing to carry them then that's the only way I'd consider it. People have conceal to carry permits. Some choose to and some don't. I think it should be completely anonymous who is armed and be secured on them or in a locked area with maybe fingerprint access. I know that's extreme but this calls for extreme measures if we are required to go way above and beyond what we are required to do. Also we all should be getting a significant raise if we are having to put ourselves in this situation. If I had my choice, all schools would be guarded by armed police officers or military veterans. It should not be part of our job description.
- a. Female, Independent teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would maybe carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
28. Requiring all teachers to carry is absurd. Having trained teachers, with secure storage for their firearms may work. However, better parenting and mental health awareness, as well as care is critical.
- a. Female, Republican teacher in a suburban school. Hasn't decided what she thinks about arming teachers, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.*
29. School security issues should be handled at the local level.
- a. Female, Independent teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would maybe carry a firearm to school if allowed.*

30. Teachers carrying firearms is a big concern for the educational system. I would rather hire more SROs...they come with guns and are fully trained.

a. Female, Republican teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

31. I am for anything to help with change and safety in our schools.

a. Male, Independent teacher in a suburban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a good idea, and would carry a firearm to school if allowed.

32. The only guns allowed in school should be law enforcement personnel. Security cameras and other measures can be implemented that will increase student safety and not make schools feel like a prison.

a. Female, Independent teacher in a urban school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

33. There are so many new young teachers that are naive about life that I would not trust with a gun. Five years ago when more teachers were older, I would be more likely to vote for teachers to have guns. Then there are those teachers who are very angry at administration that I would definitely not give guns to.

a. Female, Independent teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

34. There will be more shooting if teachers are allowed to carry guns. The shooting in Dalton, Ga is a small glimpse of the possible tragedies that will take place if teachers are allowed to carry guns on campus. I have worked with a lot of strange teachers, and it terrifies me to think that one of them could pass a screening and be allowed to carry a gun.

a. Female, Democrat teacher in a rural school. Thinks arming teachers is mostly a bad idea, and would not carry a firearm to school if allowed.

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