



Blueprint to Take Action on School Safety Executive Summary

[PTA.org/SchoolSafety](https://www.pta.org/SchoolSafety)



Executive Summary

National PTA and Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund created the Blueprint for Parent Leaders to Take Action on Gun Violence Prevention (Blueprint) to provide strategies and tools for parents to have productive discussions around school safety planning and gun violence prevention in their school communities. We know a top concern of parents is their children experiencing gun violence at school, and it's important that parents feel empowered to speak up for the safety of their children.

The Blueprint is organized by the audience for the conversation, including principals, teachers, superintendents, school mental health professionals, school board members, mayors and city council members, governors, state lawmakers and members of Congress. Each Blueprint section features three steps to guide the conversation:

1. Understanding Your Audience,
2. Preparing for Your Conversation, and
3. Discussion and Further Action, and includes a sample meeting agenda, a helpful checklist, and links to other informational resources and tools to use when working on school safety issues.

You can view the Blueprint at [PTA.org/SchoolSafety](https://www.pta.org/SchoolSafety).

A Closer Look – Blueprint Step 1: Understanding Your Audience

Audience	Role in the school system or community and in promoting school safety
Principals	Lead the school, ensure compliance with policies including safety plans, manage resources, set goals with the community and hire staff.
Teachers	Teach students, help keep students safe, foster supportive learning environments, build trusted relationships and shape the school's culture and values.
School Counselors	Support the social-emotional and mental and behavioral health of students. Often involved in school safety teams and address issues like bullying, mental health and creating a positive school climate.
School Boards	Elected members of the community who determine the strategic direction, goals and policies for how schools function within a school district. They can drive considerable improvements in safety, resource allocation and student well-being across the district.
Superintendents	The top administrative official within a school district, responsible for overseeing all operational aspects of the public schools within the district. A key figure when it comes to implementing district-wide school and gun safety measures and decisions.
Mayor/City Council	Local elected officials who lead the administration of city services, public safety and community welfare, among many other responsibilities.
Governors	Elected officials who lead the executive branch of state government. They set a policy and funding agenda for the state and can approve or reject legislation to promote school safety.
State Lawmakers	Elected officials who represent you in your state legislature. They pass laws that apply to the entire state. They can pass new laws and improve upon existing laws that keep everyone in school communities safe.
Members of Congress	Elected officials who represent the interests of your community and state within Congress. They pass laws that apply to the entire country. They can pass new laws and improve upon existing laws that keep everyone in school communities safe.

A Closer Look – Blueprint Step 2: Preparing for Your Conversation

Who should be part of the conversation?

- Decide your audience: who do you want in attendance for the conversation?
- Familiarize yourself with the person or group beforehand, including any of their previous work or statements around school safety.
- Find contact information online and reach out to schedule a meeting.

What topics do you want to discuss at the meeting?

- Develop an agenda and send it to the participants prior to the meeting. See the Blueprint for helpful sample agendas designed for each audience.
- Review [PTA's official school safety and gun violence prevention position statements and resolutions](#) for language you can use in your conversations.

Potential Topics:

- Training & Drills
- Emergency Operations Plans (EOP)
- Recovery (after a school safety incident)
- Teacher Well-Being and Support
- School Building Physical Security
- After/Outside School Programming
- Mental Health Supports and Services
- School Climate and Student Support Services
- Staffing and School Safety Teams
- Data
- Budget and/or Funding
- Policy and Compliance
- Community Partnerships
- Secure Storage
- Background Checks
- Minimum Age Requirements
- Firearm Safety Education
- Restricting Specific Weapons and Accessories
- Community and Parental Involvement in Safety Planning

A Closer Look – Blueprint Step 3: Discussion & Further Action

Remember each conversation is an opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions around school and gun safety issues, and build a relationship with a member of your school or community who plays a role in ensuring the safety of students, families and schools. Take notes, ask questions, listen closely and commit to continued conversation, collaboration and action alongside your audience.

Consider also suggesting these next steps to encourage continued collaboration:

- Invite your audience to speak about school safety at a PTA meeting.
- Ask your audience to highlight school safety in regular communications with the community.
- Ask your audience if they can connect you with other key decision makers or members of the community working on school safety issues.
- Schedule another meeting with the intention of bringing in more families or other important voices, like students, and continuing the conversation.
- Work together to create new events and programs that center around school safety planning, gun violence prevention and uplifting the parent and family voice.