

We recognize that current events have created increased concern over student safety. Parents, school boards, and administrators are actively looking for ways to improve the security of schools. One proposal has been to allow selected individuals to carry weapons, in order to counter threats of violence to staff and students.

We share these safety concerns and offer the following:

1. We strongly recommend that individuals carrying weapons be limited to school resource officers (SROs) or other staff who are specifically organized and trained for security purposes, such as school security officers (SSOs) or district resource officers (DROs). These kinds of personnel should be organized as a separate department within the school/district, and be readily identifiable as security officers.
2. Several districts in Washington State have set up security departments and have armed them to varying degrees. We recommend that schools/districts contemplating the need for security staff contact their insurance broker or Clear Risk Solutions if they are seeking any resources or advice.
3. **We strongly recommend *against* any decision to allow administrative or other educational staff to carry weapons on school property. In our opinion, the inherent risks of these employees carrying weapons, especially firearms, far outweigh the expected benefits.**

