

**Resolution No. 18-22
Edmonds School District #15
Snohomish County, Washington**

**To Declare Support for Sensible Gun Safety Legislation,
To Declare Opposition to Efforts to Arm Educators in our Schools, and
To Declare Support of the March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.**

WHEREAS, Edmonds School Board Policy No. 1100, Educational Philosophy, affirms that “The welfare of all boys and girls in the district shall be the primary objective underlying all decisions of the Board, and

WHEREAS, gun violence presents a clear and present danger to the students, parents, educators, paraeducators, administrators, and support staff of the Edmonds School District; and

WHEREAS, Washington state law (RCW 28A.600.420 and RCW 9.41.280) and Edmonds School Board policies (4210) already prohibit weapons and firearms on school properties; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, there have been 291 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school and college campuses in the United States which averages to about one per week,¹ and 168 of those shootings were at K-12 schools;² and

WHEREAS, in the past five years, eight school shootings have occurred in Washington state, four of which resulted in injury or death,³ and districts around Washington State, have far too often been the scenes of gun violence and threats of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in Washington, an 18-year-old can buy a military style assault weapon with no background check or waiting period;⁴ and

WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments; and

WHEREAS, more guns results in more homicides,⁵ and our nation is now aware that persons of color are more likely to be wrongfully shot by persons in positions of power, leads to the

¹ Everytown for Gun Safety; School Shootings in America Since 2013. February 2018, <https://everytownresearch.org/school-shootings/>.

² Everytown for Gun Safety; Keep Guns Out of Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; February 2018; <https://everytownresearch.org/guns-in-elementary-middle-and-high-schools>

³ Everytown for Gun Safety; 291 School Shootings in America since 2013; <https://everytownresearch.org/schoolshootings/#2919>

⁴<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/washington-lawmakers-should-take-vote-on-assault-weapons-limits/>.

⁵ <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>.

conclusion that arming educators could have a disproportionately adverse and lethal impact on students of color;⁶ and

WHEREAS, students have seized the conscience of the nation with their demand for strong action to reduce preventable gun violence and on March 24, 2018, a National March for Our Lives will be held by student leaders seeking to deliver an unmistakable message that now is the time to pass common sense gun safety laws; and

WHEREAS, sensible gun safety legislation will strengthen protections for our schools and students by preventing dangerous individuals from attaining firearms; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the Board of Directors that Edmonds School District and Washington State must be national leaders in innovative and meaningful policy to confront gun violence;

WHEREAS, school boards should retain local control over decisions of how best to implement school safety strategies, that reflect the priorities of their local communities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Edmonds School Board supports sensible gun safety legislation to protect students and staff, such as:

- raising the age to purchase assault weapons to 21,
- implementing Enhanced Background Checks for Assault Weapons,
- banning the purchase and sale of “assault” or semi- automatic rifles and of any accessories designed to increase a gun’s rate of fire,
- establishing safety programs in schools that do NOT include arming educators or staff,
- eliminating private gun sale loopholes,
- providing funding for thorough gun violence research, including removing the prohibition on research and data collection by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC);
- supporting prevention, intervention and community re-entry programs that reduce community and gun violence; and
- increased funding for programs and school staffing (i.e. counselors, nurses, and psychologists) that support student mental health, social and emotional learning, and anti-bullying; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Edmonds School District rejects the misguided suggestion, that it is either desirable or appropriate to arm teachers in schools for any purpose, and will maintain existing prohibition of firearms at school and will NOT support any effort to arm educators and staff; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Edmonds School District wholly endorses the student led March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018.

⁶https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2018/02/27/arming-teachers-would-put-black-andlatino-kids-in-danger/?utm_term=.1aa6bc969c00.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Edmonds School District No. 15, Snohomish County, Washington at a regular open public meeting thereof, held March 13, 2018, the following Directors being present and voting therefore:

Edmonds School District No. 15
Board of Directors:

Ann McMurray, President

Diana White, Vice President

Carin Chase, Legislative Representative

Deborah Kilgore, Board Member

Gary Noble, Board Member

Attest:

E. Kristine McDuffy, Ed.D.
Secretary to the Board of Directors