



Arming School Staff Considerations

Safe and Drug Free Schools

The decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons on campus can have significant, unintended consequences and requires thorough discussion and preparation to determine if the benefits outweigh the risks. Idaho Safe and Secure Schools Task Force has identified the following actions and decision points to be addressed prior to authorization of weapon carrying among school staff:

- Consultation with the district insurance carrier to determine applicable policy changes and associated costs.
- Identification of the rules of engagement (for what purposes is it appropriate to brandish the weapon?).
- Identification of enhanced training required of those authorized to carry weapons on campus (training should be ongoing, not a one-time event).
- Consultation with local law enforcement to inform the decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons.
- Consultation with parents to inform the decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons.
- Clarifications of expectations (through policy) of the actions of authorized school staff when in contact with law enforcement personnel.
- Identification of psychiatric screening measures to ensure the sound mental health of staff authorized to carry.
- Determination of requirements to ensure weapon security and retention- security and retention measures prevent unauthorized access and use of the weapon.
- District policy should specify which specific staff member(s) are authorized to carry weapons, and should identify the specific the weapon(s) to be carried. The amount, location and security of ammunition should also be addressed.

*The decision to authorize school staff to carry weapons on school campus in Idaho rests with locally elected school boards per [Idaho Code §18-3302D\(4\)\(f\)](#). Absent extenuating circumstances, the Idaho Safe and Secure Schools Task Force does not recommend the authorization of school staff to carry weapons on campus for school safety / security purposes.

Risks	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aftermath- potential lifelong trauma associated with the taking of life • Friendly fire- increased risk of injury / fatality due to multiple weapons in play during crisis situation • Burden of ongoing training to maintain proficiency with a weapon in a crisis situation • Parental Right to know which staff is carrying may be divisive • Parental / community concern regarding armed school staff • Lack of clarity regarding liability for personal injury and property damage resulting in firearm use among those authorized • Potential increase in school personnel seen as targets by perpetrators of school violence • Conflicts in loyalty may emerge regarding board expectations and personal conviction / administrator expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased ability to defend against a perpetrator until first responders arrive • Serves as a deterrent to potential perpetrators (if publicized) • May serve as a force multiplier for first responders