



February 27, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

Resolution on Gun Violence in Schools

WHEREAS schools across the United States have become a focal point for gun violence;

WHEREAS students experience severe trauma when a shooting occurs in their school;

WHEREAS students in schools across the United States may experience vicarious traumatic reactions every time a school shooting occurs;

WHEREAS students in schools across the United States live with extreme fear and anxiety that a shooting could occur in their school;

WHEREAS students in schools across the United States are regularly engaged in active-shooter drills, which serve to heighten anxiety about a potential shooting;

WHEREAS school counselors and other professional counselors working with school-age children and adolescents are on the front line of helping students with the emotional trauma, fear, and anxiety related to gun violence;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the American Counseling Association promotes the use of school counselors and other professional counselors working with school-age children and adolescents as central participants in the planning of school-based violence-prevention and safety strategies;

That the American Counseling Association supports adequate federal funding for research into the public health impact of gun violence and evidence-based strategies for preventing and/or addressing gun violence;

That the American Counseling Association supports actions that are consistent with its goals and values, such as those taken by students in Florida and across the country as they advocate for safer schools and communities. With this in mind, ACA will explore avenues to engage in developing shared strategies with students to promote safer schools and communities;

That the American Counseling Association endorses efforts to reduce gun violence in the United States;

and

That the American Counseling Association will share additional statements in the future that address the needs of mental health care and gun violence in society.