



West Chicago Elementary Schools
School District 33
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March 2018

Dear Illinois Association of School Boards and Legislators,

We, Illinois School District 33 of West Chicago, Illinois are deeply troubled and saddened by the recent school shooting massacre in Parkland, Florida. Unfortunately, these shootings keep happening in our schools. We must act!

Our school district and West Chicago Police Department have an Emergency Management Plan and regularly participate in drills to assure preparedness in the case of an emergency. We believe the safety of students, staff and visitors is of utmost importance.

While we are doing all we can to be prepared in the event of an emergency such as recently happened in Parkland, we also need your help in joining us in an unwavering commitment to student safety in our schools. We need your representation of our needs at the state and federal level.

The constitutional right to bear arms must be balanced with the accessibility of modern weaponry and the repeated atrocities we see being committed in our schools. Specifically, we ask that lawmakers:

- Consider legislation that would limit access to assault-style weapons, bump stocks and high capacity magazines. Improve background checks, including consideration of additional restrictions in the event a person has a history of violence or mental illness.
- Carefully respond and reflect on the lobbying and marketing influence of assault retailers on lawmakers' decision-making.
- Offer counseling programs and services in our schools that would limit and address any noticeable violent or aggressive behavior among children or family members.
- Ensure social media outlets do more to monitor, restrict, and report to law enforcement language or media postings among minor children deemed as serious threats against schools and the students attending them.
- Look into the errors that occurred in government agencies that resulted in their overlooking crucial evidence.

We believe the approach to this issue of violence in our schools must change to curb further tragedies. We are asking for your immediate and sober consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Gil Wagner, Board President on behalf of all District 33 Board of Education members