

FASTER

**Be Prepared for the
Next School Shooting**

Prepared by
Buckeye Firearms Foundation
A 501(c)(3) Educational Organization

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Buckeye Firearms Foundation

www.BuckeyeFirearms.org

15 West Winter Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015

FASTER – Faculty/Administration Safety Training and Emergency Response

June, 2013

Dear School Superintendent or BOE member:

As parents, we want to thank you for caring so much for the students in your school district. By assisting in the effort to see that willing school employees be allowed the ability to conceal a firearm at work, you are investing in these students' lives in a way that reaches far beyond their educational, physical and emotional well-being.

The educators in Connecticut proved their love for their kids by dying for them. But teachers and school employees deserve more choices than just locking a door or diving in front of the bullets.

Time is the critical element in responding to a school shooting. The faster someone stops the killer, and cares for the injured, the more lives will be saved. Waiting on outside help will result in increased casualties. The FASTER program was designed by experts to save lives. That is why we are willing to pay for your staff to learn these skills.

The following material has been prepared with the hope that you, as a person who deeply cares for children, will take this material and use it to begin to understand the issue of school killings. The decision to authorize the right people with the legal authority to carry a gun at school will make the schools in your district safer from violence.

The desire to “do something” that we’ve all felt in the wake of the latest mass murder in a “gun free zone” will have been for naught if the status quo continues – if we only talk about what to do differently, but don’t actually follow it through with real changes, we have really done nothing.

It is our goal to see that willing school employees are given the tools they need to be able to protect our children just as many pilots now safely carry guns to protect themselves, their flight crew and their passengers.

The following manual is intended to assist you in that effort.

Jim Irvine
President
Buckeye Firearms Foundation

Chad D. Baus
Vice Chairman
Buckeye Firearms Association

The Law Regarding Guns in Schools

A) Federal law allows licensed individuals to enter a “school zone”

18 USC 922(q)(2)

(A) It shall be unlawful for any individual knowingly to possess a firearm that has moved in or that otherwise affects interstate or foreign commerce at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is a school zone.

(B) **Subparagraph (A) does not apply to the possession of a firearm—**

(i) on private property not part of school grounds;

(ii) **if the individual possessing the firearm is licensed to do so by the State in which the school zone is located or a political subdivision of the State**, and the law of the State or political subdivision requires that, before an individual obtains such a license, the law enforcement authorities of the State or political subdivision verify that the individual is qualified under law to receive the license;

B) State law allows for school boards to give permission to concealed handgun license-holders to carry in the school building:

ORC 2923.122 Illegal conveyance or possession of deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance or of object indistinguishable from firearm in school safety zone.

(A) No person shall knowingly convey, or attempt to convey, a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone.

(B) No person shall knowingly possess a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in a school safety zone.

(C) No person shall knowingly possess an object in a school safety zone if both of the following apply:

(1) The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.

(2) The person indicates that the person possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person knowingly displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

(D)(1) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(a) An officer, agent, or employee of this or any other state or the United States, or a law enforcement officer, who is authorized to carry deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance and is acting within the scope of the officer's, agent's, or employee's duties, a security officer employed by a board of education or governing body of a school during the time that the security officer is on duty pursuant to that contract of employment, **or any other person who has written authorization from the board of education or governing body of a school** to convey deadly weapons or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone or to possess a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in a school safety zone and who conveys or possesses the deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in accordance with that authorization; (emphasis added)

C) Teachers and Administrators are not police:

109.78 Certification of special police, security guards, or persons otherwise privately employed in a police capacity.

(D) No public or private educational institution, or superintendent of the state highway patrol shall employ a person as a special police officer, security guard, or other position in which such person goes armed while on duty, who has not received a certificate of having satisfactorily completed an approved basic peace officer training program, unless the person has completed twenty years of active duty as a peace officer.

Unfortunately, some have confused the issue by advising that ORC 109.78 (specifically section D) controls persons with firearms in schools. We have asked several attorneys for their interpretation. They all agree that this section applies to hiring specialized security personal. As one noted, "It means exactly what it says." Read the title of the section (above in bold) yourself to see what this section controls.

Authorizing your own staff to carry a firearm as a civilian is completely different than hiring someone in a "police capacity." The two very different situations are properly covered under different sections of the law. Attorney General Mike DeWine agrees. See his letter on the following page.



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

Administration
Office 614-466-4320
Fax 614-466-5087

30 E. Broad Street, 17th Fl
Columbus, OH 43215
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

January 29, 2013

James Irvine
Chairman
Buckeye Firearms Association

Via Email - jirvine@buckeyefirearms.org

Dear Jim,

In the aftermath of recent tragic school shootings, there is a growing national debate on whether local school boards should allow their employees to carry firearms. I've been asked whether Ohio law gives local school boards the authority to arm administrators, teachers, or other staff.

Ohio law does not prevent a local school board from arming an employee, unless that employee's duties rise to the level that he/she would be considered "security personnel." In other words, a school may allow a teacher to go armed on school property. But if that teacher is required to, in essence, become a security guard as well, the teacher must either have a basic peace officer certification from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy or he or she must have 20 years of experience as a law enforcement officer. R.C. 109.78(D).

I do not believe that R.C. 109.78(D) applies to non-security personnel. Put simply, it is unlikely that the General Assembly intended this language to reach *every* school employee. Had they intended to do so, they would have simply said that no school may employ "*any person* who goes armed." Instead, the General Assembly's use of "special police officer, security guard, or other position" suggests that "other positions" applies to security personnel. Thus, a board of education or governing body of a school may give non-security personnel written authorization to carry a weapon onto the premises. R.C. 2923.122(D)(1)(a). That person, however, is still subject to the carry and conveyance restrictions under Ohio's Concealed Carry Laws. R.C. 2923.12.

Of course, how a school classifies a particular employee's duties is a question that can only be answered by the local school district's employment practices and policies. For example, in a time of crisis, every employee may be expected to help secure the children on the premises, but that does not necessarily mean that every employee is a security guard. Conversely, if the school were to require an assistant principal to perform

specific, routine security sweeps of the facilities, it might be functionally converting the position into one that falls under R.C. 109.78.

These are all fact-specific factors that will vary from school district to school district. That is why I believe this subject requires legislative review and hope the General Assembly will address this issue. This is an important question that is part of a wider public debate across Ohio.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Fiatal". The signature is cursive and contained within a light blue rectangular box.

Robert Fiatal
Executive Director
Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission

D) If a school authorizes arming staff as part of their “school safety plan”, it does not have to be a public record:

149.433 Exempting security and infrastructure records.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) “Act of terrorism” has the same meaning as in section [2909.21](#) of the Revised Code.

(2) “Infrastructure record” means any record that discloses the configuration of a public office’s or chartered nonpublic school’s critical systems including, but not limited to, communication, computer, electrical, mechanical, ventilation, water, and plumbing systems, security codes, or the infrastructure or structural configuration of the building in which a public office or chartered nonpublic school is located. “Infrastructure record” does not mean a simple floor plan that discloses only the spatial relationship of components of a public office or chartered nonpublic school or the building in which a public office or chartered nonpublic school is located.

(3) “Security record” means any of the following:

(a) Any record that contains information directly used for protecting or maintaining the security of a public office against attack, interference, or sabotage;

(b) Any record assembled, prepared, or maintained by a public office or public body to prevent, mitigate, or respond to acts of terrorism, including any of the following:

(i) Those portions of records containing specific and unique vulnerability assessments or specific and unique response plans either of which is intended to prevent or mitigate acts of terrorism, and communication codes or deployment plans of law enforcement or emergency response personnel;

(ii) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative records shared by federal and international law enforcement agencies with state and local law enforcement and public safety agencies;

(iii) National security records classified under federal executive order and not subject to public disclosure under federal law that are shared by federal agencies, and other records related to national security briefings to assist state and local government with domestic preparedness for acts of terrorism.

(c) A school safety plan adopted pursuant to section 3313.536 of the Revised Code.

(B) A record kept by a public office that is a security record or an infrastructure record is not a public record under section [149.43](#) of the Revised Code and is not subject to mandatory release or disclosure under that section.

(C) Notwithstanding any other section of the Revised Code, disclosure by a public office, public employee, chartered nonpublic school, or chartered nonpublic school employee of a security record or infrastructure record that is necessary for construction, renovation, or remodeling work on any public building or project or chartered nonpublic school does not constitute public disclosure for purposes of waiving division (B) of this section and does not result in that record becoming a public record for purposes of section [149.43](#) of the Revised Code.

3313.536 School safety plan for each school building.

(A) The board of education of each city, exempted village, and local school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school shall adopt a comprehensive school safety plan for each school building under the board's or governing authority's control. The board or governing authority shall examine the environmental conditions and operations of each building to determine potential hazards to student and staff safety and shall propose operating changes to promote the prevention of potentially dangerous problems and circumstances. In developing the plan for each building, the board or governing authority shall involve community law enforcement and safety officials, parents of students who are assigned to the building, and teachers and nonteaching employees who are assigned to the building. The board or governing authority shall consider incorporating remediation strategies into the plan for any building where documented safety problems have occurred.

The board or governing authority shall incorporate into the plan both of the following:

- (1) A protocol for addressing serious threats to the safety of school property, students, employees, or administrators;
- (2) A protocol for responding to any emergency events that do occur and that compromise the safety of school property, students, employees, or administrators.

Each protocol shall include procedures deemed appropriate by the board or governing authority for responding to threats and emergency events, respectively, including such things as notification of appropriate law enforcement personnel, calling upon specified emergency response personnel for assistance, and informing parents of affected students. Prior to the opening day of each school year, the board or governing authority shall inform each student enrolled in the school and the student's parent of the parental notification procedures included in the protocol.

(B) The board or governing authority shall update the safety plan at least once every three years and whenever a major modification to the building requires changes in the procedures outlined in the plan.

(C) The board or governing authority shall file a copy of the current safety plan and building blueprint with each law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school building and, upon request, the fire department that serves the political subdivision in which the school building is located. The board or governing authority also shall file a copy of the current safety plan and a floor plan of the building, but not a building blueprint, with the attorney general, who shall post that information on the Ohio law enforcement gateway or its successor.

Copies of safety plans, building blueprints, and floor plans shall be filed as described in this division not later than the ninety-first day after March 30, 2007. If a board or governing authority revises a safety plan, building blueprint, or floor plan after the initial filing, the board or governing authority shall file copies of the revised safety plan, building blueprint, or floor plan in the manner described in this division not later than the ninety-first day after the revision is adopted.

Copies of the safety plan and building blueprint are not a public record pursuant to section 149.433 of the Revised Code.

Notwithstanding section 149.433 of the Revised Code, a building floor plan filed with the attorney general pursuant to this division is not a public record to the extent it is a record kept by the attorney general. This paragraph does not affect the status of a floor plan kept as a record by another public office.

The board or governing authority, each law enforcement agency and fire department to which copies of the safety plan and building blueprint are provided, and the attorney general shall keep the copies in a secure place.

(D) The board or governing authority shall grant access to each school building under its control to law enforcement personnel to enable the personnel to hold training sessions for responding to threats and emergency events affecting the building, provided that the access occurs outside of student instructional hours and an employee of the board or governing authority is present in the building during the training sessions.

Amended by 128th General Assembly File No. 9, HB 1, § 101.01, eff. 10/16/2009.

SUMMARY: BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE LAW CURRENTLY ALLOWS FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO AUTHORIZE CONCEALED CARRY BY LICENSED INDIVIDUALS IN THE SCHOOL, THE STATE'S TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL ADVISED THAT BOARDS EXERCISING THAT RIGHT DO NOT NEED TO MAKE THEIR DECISION, NOR THE IDENTITIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE SO AUTHROISED AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA OR OTHER REQUESTS.

Are guns the only answer? NO!

We need to do everything we can to save the lives of our children. We love our kids. We should do everything we can to protect them. This is not about guns; this is about the safety and security of our children, teachers and school staff.

Preventative measures, including hardening the building, mindset training, trauma casualty care training, and armed teachers/ school employees will all save lives. To combat unacceptable losses due to fires, we have employed multiple, overlapping layers of protection. The lack of fire related deaths in our schools over the last 50 years illustrate the success of this approach. It is time to employ the same multiple, overlapping layers approach to protection against violence. Just as with fires, we should be doing ALL we can to protect our children from violence.

Preventive measures. Experts continue to say there is no way of predicting who will go on a killing spree. But we need to look for commonalities in the killers and see if we can learn some warning signs that would allow us to get these people help or otherwise intervene before a person commits such acts of brutality. Intercepting a potential attack before it gets to school property is the most desired situation.

Harden the physical building. We must make our schools safe from external threats. Control the entry and exit points and know everyone who is permitted in the building. We have made great improvements in this area in the last 10 years. It's time to review what we have learned. Copy the successes and improve on the weaknesses.

Mindset. We need to train teachers and administrators how to react. Not just closing the door and hiding in a corner or closet, but limiting the carnage and stopping the attack. They should be trained to build a barricade and ambush their attacker. We have preached zero tolerance to fighting for so long that students in Norris Hall (Virginia Tech) sat in their seats as a killer came down the row executing them. There is a time to fight, and an active killer situation not only permits it, but demands it.

Arming school staff. Similar to pilots who carry guns to protect their passengers and crew (something that has worked very well in spite of all the anti-gun predictions of disasters), teachers need the tools to protect their children - not just from fires or abuse, but also from a killer in the room. Like pilots, we don't need to arm every teacher, just those who volunteer, pass background checks and receive appropriate training. If we have someone willing to lay their life on the line, it's our responsibility as a society to give them the tools, skills and permission needed. It has worked in Utah, Alabama, and Texas for years. At least 23,000 schools – about one-third of all public schools – already had armed security on staff as of the most recent data, for the 2009-10 school year.

Trauma Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) After the shooting stops, there is likely going to be injuries. Paramedics can't get in and help until law enforcement secures the scene. Without treatment, gunshot and stabbing victims will bleed to death before outside help arrives. Our teachers already know Basic Life Support (BLS, formally CPR). School personnel must have the training and tools to treat trauma injuries immediately. Immediate application of compression bandages, tourniquets or clotting gauze by teachers and administrators can save lives.

Our FASTER training covers 3 of the 5 topics listed above. Teachers and administrators will be taught mindset, firearms skills, and trauma care. They will be a valuable asset before, during, and after a violent event at your school.

Why an armed presence in schools?

We already know having armed citizen first responders can save lives:

- In Edinboro, Pennsylvania in 1996, 14-year-old Andrew Wurst shot and killed a teacher at a school dance, and shot and injured several other students. He had just left the dance hall, carrying his gun when he was confronted by the dance hall owner James Strand, who lived next door and kept a shotgun at home.
- In Pearl, Mississippi in 1997, 16-year-old Luke Woodham stabbed and bludgeoned to death his mother at home, then killed two students and injured seven at his high school. As he was on his way to another school building, he was stopped by Assistant Principal Joel Myrick, who had gone out to get a handgun from his car. (Note: Having that gun in his car was illegal, but it saved lives.) The combined death toll in Sandy Hook and Columbine was 42. At Pearl, Mississippi, the death toll was 2.
- At the Appalachian School of Law in Grudy, VA in 2002, 43 year-old Peter Odighizuwa killed three and injured three more before being confronted by two students who had ran to their cars to retrieve personally-owned firearms.
- In Colorado Springs in 2007, 24 year-old Matthew Murray killed four people at New Life Church. He was then shot several times by Jeanne Assam, a church member, volunteer security guard, and former police officer (she had been dismissed by a police department 10 years before, and to my knowledge hadn't worked as a police officer since).
- In Winnemucca, Nevada in 2008, 30 year-old Ernesto Villagomez killed two people and wounded two others in a bar filled with three hundred people. He was then shot and killed by a patron who was carrying a gun (and had a concealed carry license).
- In Clackamas Town Center Mall near Happy Valley, OR in 2012, 22 year-old Jacob Tyler Roberts killed 2 people and wounded a third person. An armed citizen with a concealed carry permit drew his firearm, at which time Roberts saw him and committed suicide.
- In Atlanta in January 2013, a 15 year-old boy brought a pistol to school and shot a 14 year-old boy in the school courtyard before being disarmed by the school resource officer. The school's two metal detectors were inoperable at the time.

Compare the much lower death toll at these events where an armed citizen first responder was able to act, with attacks at "no-guns" zones like Columbine (13 dead, 21 injured), Sandy Hook (26 dead, 2 injured), and Virginia Tech (32 dead, 23 injured).

On average, when a killer is stopped by someone on scene, there will be 2-3 casualties. When he is stopped by a responding law enforcement officer, there will be 12-16 casualties. Waiting for police will result in an increase of 9-14 deaths to your staff and students. Police desperately want to solve this problem for you, but unless they are inside your buildings when the shooting starts, they simply can't get there in time. You need a better solution and a faster response.

There is no guarantee that an armed teacher will be able to stop anyone. But there IS a guarantee that if no one is armed, a mass murderer can kill dozens without any resistance, until an armed person responds. The number of casualties/killed in mass shootings is directly proportional to the time it takes someone who is armed to arrive, confront the shooter and stop the attack. The faster an armed person responds, the fewer innocent lives are lost.

Response to common concerns

Doesn't the fact that there was an armed guard at Columbine prove this won't work? No. The guard, who was outside the building when the attack began, had not been trained to press an attack because active shooter protocols were not yet in place. We still have crime even though we have thousands of police on city streets. But we don't conclude that an armed police presence doesn't work. It's a deterrent. And that's key for our schools - a deterrent that could reduce mass murders in schools.

Students could overpower you and take your gun. That doesn't happen to the millions of Americans who currently carry in 49 states. It has not happened in the many schools that have had an armed presence for decades. Schools do not need to disclose which teachers/administrators are authorized to carry firearms.

We don't want to teach our kids that violence is a good thing. Kids could be traumatized if there's a shootout. I would think we'd want to teach our kids that letting bad people harm innocent people is wrong. And kids who need a counselor after a shootout is better than kids who need a mortician. We want our kids to BE safe, not just FEEL safe. Actual safety does not come from creating victim zones where bad people can do anything they want without resistance.

More guns in schools will just lead to more violence. All the teachers I know are good people who care deeply about children. And most of the teachers who will be in our armed teacher training program are already carrying concealed everywhere else and doing it legally and responsibly. Teachers that will be permitted to carry will have passed a thorough background check, have never been convicted of a felony, have never had a drug offense, and have never been labeled "mentally incompetent"

Guns in schools would distract from the learning environment. Ask anyone in a 'right to carry' state when he or she last noticed another person carrying a concealed handgun. The word 'concealed' is there for a reason. Concealed guns would no more distract students from learning than they currently distract moviegoers from enjoying movies or office workers from doing their jobs. Millions of Americans carry concealed in 49 states, including Ohio.

It's possible a gun might go off by accident. Accidental discharges are very rare - particularly because modern firearms feature multiple safety features and because a handgun's trigger is typically not exposed when it is concealed. Only about 2% of all firearm-related deaths in the U.S. are accidental, and most of those are hunting accidents and accidents involving firearms being openly handled in an unsafe manner. A person is five times more likely to accidentally drown, five times more likely to die in a fire, 29 times more likely to die in an accidental fall, and 32 times more likely to die from accidental poisoning than to die from an accidental gunshot.

In an active shooter scenario, a student or faculty member with a gun would only make things worse. What is worse than allowing an execution-style massacre to continue uncontested? How could any action with the potential to stop or slow a deranged killer intent on slaughtering victim after victim be considered 'worse' than allowing that killer to continue undeterred? Contrary to what happens in the movies, real-world shootouts lasting more than ten seconds are rare. It is unlikely that an exchange of gunfire between an armed assailant and an armed citizen would last more than a couple of seconds. How could a couple of seconds of exchanged gunfire possibly be worse than a ten-minute, execution-style massacre?

The job of defending campuses against violent attacks should be left to the professionals. We are not trying to turn teachers into SWAT. We just want teachers who choose to carry in school to have the opportunity, because this allows them a chance to protect themselves and students in their classroom. Given that most mass school murders are committed by one or two individuals, a teacher who defends him or herself in this situation also saves students ... just as an ordinary citizen who stops an attack could save other lives as well. According to a U.S. Secret Service study into thirty-seven school shootings, 'Over half of the attacks were resolved/ended before law enforcement responded to the scene. In these cases the attacker was stopped by faculty or fellow students, decided to stop shooting on his own, or killed himself.' The study found that only three of the thirty-seven school shootings researched involved shots being fired by law enforcement officers. Plus, when it becomes common for schools to allow armed teachers, it can act as a deterrent to future mass murderers.

Police officers typically spend four to five months in training; whereas, concealed handgun license holders usually spend one day or less. Police officers do not spend four to five months learning to carry concealed handguns for self-defense; they spend four to five months learning to be police officers. Concealed handgun license holders are not police officers; therefore, they have no need of most of the training received by police officers. Concealed handgun license holders don't need to know how to drive police cars at high speeds or how to kick down doors or how to conduct traffic stops or how to make arrests or how to use handcuffs. And concealed handgun license holders definitely don't need to spend weeks memorizing radio codes and traffic laws. All a concealed handgun license holder needs to know is how to use his or her concealed handgun to stop an immediate threat of death or serious bodily harm, and that type of training is accomplished with the 3 day training conducted at Tactical Defense Institute, or other locations.

How are first responders supposed to tell the difference between armed civilians and armed assailants. This hasn't been an issue with concealed handgun license holders in other walks of life for several reasons. First and foremost, real-world shootouts are typically localized and over very quickly. It's not realistic to expect police to encounter an ongoing shootout between assailants and armed civilians. Second, police are trained to expect both armed bad guys AND armed good guys—from off-duty/undercover police officers to armed civilians—in tactical scenarios. Third, concealed handgun license holders are trained to use their firearms for self-defense. They are not trained to run through buildings looking for bad guys. Therefore, a key distinction between the armed assailants and the armed civilians is that the armed civilians would be protecting the crowd, while the armed assailants would be shooting at the crowd. Part of good training is that once the police arrive, teachers should conceal their firearms and attend to their student's needs.

It is inconceivable that any logical person would believe the answer to violence is more guns. The answer to bullets flying is not more bullets flying. Actually, the answer to bullets flying is almost always more bullets flying. A call to 911 is a request for more guns and more bullets to be brought to the scene. They respond to a report of 'shots fired.'

General firearms issues

So what about those “Assault Weapons?” Shouldn’t they be banned?

First, let’s define the term:

The M4A1 carbine is a U.S. military service rifle – it is an assault rifle. The AR-15 is not an assault rifle. The “AR” in its name does not stand for “Assault Rifle” – it is the designation from the first two letters of the original manufacturer’s name – ArmaLite Corporation. The AR-15 is designed so that it cosmetically *looks like* the M4A1 carbine assault rifle, but it is NOT a fully automatic assault rifle. It is a single shot semi-automatic rifle that can fire between 45 and 60 rounds per minute depending on the skill of the operator. The M4A1 can fire up to 950 rounds per minute. In 1986, the federal government banned the import or manufacture of new fully automatic firearms for sale to civilians. Therefore, the sale of assault rifles to everyday citizens is already prohibited!

We’ve tried a ban on semi-automatic rifles and larger capacity magazines before:

The Federal government had a ban on military look-alike semi-automatic rifles and magazines with a capacity of more than ten rounds in place from 1994 – 2004. That ban, like those currently being proposed, didn’t ban rifles because of their muzzle velocity (power) or their action (how they operate). It banned rifles simply for how they looked. Adding or removing a piece of plastic designed to make the rifle more controllable (such as a pistol grip or fore-grip), or to make it fit the operator better (such as an adjustable-length stock) changes nothing about the velocity of the projectile coming out the barrel, or the rate of fire. The 1994 ban failed to stop Columbine, Paducah, Jonesboro, and many other school shootings (NOTE: A state-level “assault weapons” ban in Connecticut failed to stop the horrific events at Newtown). The Justice Department’s own study concluded that after ten years, the federal ban didn’t have any effect on crime.

Many commonly-used handguns and rifles today are designed with magazines with standard capacity of greater than 10 rounds. Would banning these so-called “high capacity” magazines help? The Newtown, CT killer had larger magazines, but often ejected them before they were empty. The Columbine killers simply adjusted to the Federal magazine capacity limit that was in place at the time by buying more ten-round magazines - thirteen magazines would be found in the massacre’s aftermath. One of the two killers fired 96 rounds before killing himself. Military and firearms experts have concluded that reducing magazine capacity from 30 rounds to 10 rounds will only require an additional 6 -8 seconds to change two empty 10 round magazines with full magazines. Would an increase of 6 –8 seconds make any real difference to the outcome in a mass shooting incident? Why do the gun ban extremists think that it would somehow be more acceptable to have children murdered if killer has to reload 3 or 4 times (which, again, the Connecticut killer did)?

Of the thirteen multiple victim public shootings in 2012, just four were carried out using this type of firearm.

According to FBI statistics, more than twice as many people are killed with fists each year than rifles.

Efforts to ban these rifles and magazines are nothing but a “feel good” campaign by politicians to convince the public that they are “doing something.” The ban would change nothing, and we have ten years of experience to prove it.

Can we do more with background checks?

Everyone agrees we should be doing a lot better at keeping prohibited persons from obtaining access to firearms. Mental health records collected at the state level should be uploaded into the federal database, etc.

Unfortunately, every piece of federal legislation introduced since at least 2004 that has sought to deal with "background checks," has actually been a bill to abolish gun shows, and have had little to nothing to do with background checks. These draconian proposals have included making every gun show vendor registered 30+ days in advance (even the hot dog vendor?), providing reports back to ATF about all the gun transactions, etc. The proposals have always amounted to gun registration and killing gun shows. Never have they talked about just background checks.

Background checks are performed by Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs). President Clinton, as part of the original gun control push in the early '90s, decimated the ranks of FFLs trying to renew their licenses. By 2003, and mostly under Clinton, the number of FFLs went from nearly 250,000 to around 58,000. If you want background checks, why eliminate the people required to perform them?

Gun ban extremists keep throwing around a statistic claiming that 40% of guns sales happen without a background check. But where does anyone keep track of non-background check sales? Nowhere. This statistic is nothing but a guess - made to sound scary so it will play well in the media. The latest push for "background checks" would require family heirloom inheritance to go through a background check.

A greater problem occurs when government agencies fail to report disqualifying information to the national database. A background check database is only going to be as accurate as the information put into it, and many records, such as mental health adjudications, are never reported by states into the national database. Checking a greater number of law-abiding purchasers against an incomplete background check system isn't going to solve anything.

Finally, many of these mass murders (and other criminals) are not obtaining their guns legally. The Newtown, CT murderer killed his mother and stole her guns. The Chardon, OH killer stole a handgun from an uncle. The Clackamas Co, OR mall killer stole a rifle from someone he knew. Many other school shootings have followed a similar pattern. Jonesboro? Check. Conyers, GA? Yep. Red Lake, MN? Also stolen.

Clearly background checks, no matter how thorough, are not going to prevent a determined person from obtaining a firearm. Rather, in many cases, these laws are intended to restrict gun ownership by law-abiding people.

Where to get general firearms information:

We highly recommend you obtain the "Gun Facts" download – 112 pages chock full of information that presents the facts (with sources) and exposes the myths often repeated by the media and politicians.
<http://www.buckeyefirearms.org/Gun-Facts-Download>

Where to get specific information about the FASTER and other training:

<http://www.buckeyefirearms.org/node/8967>

For further questions about the FASTER training program contact Jim Irvine

Email – jirvine@BuckeyeFirearmsFoundation.org

Cell – 440-503-3011

To request FASTER training for your employees, contact Brad Birchfield:

Email - BBirchfield@buckeyefirearms.org

Thank you for all you do for our children.