

# RESULTS - Montana Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Survey – School Safety: MASS Perceptions/Thoughts about Firearms in Schools.

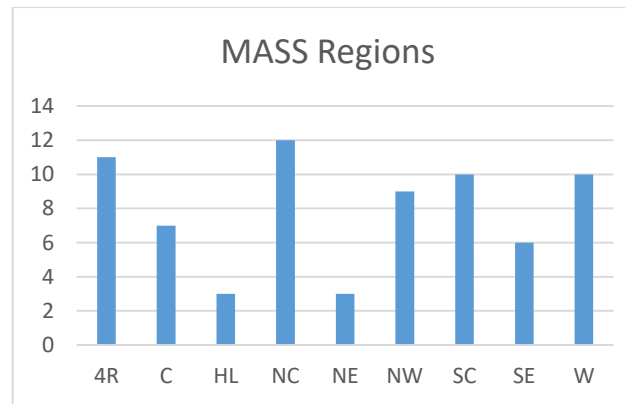
These are the results of a survey to measure school district leaders’ outlook on making schools safer (including the subject of staff carrying firearms). At their last meeting on March 18, 2018, the MASS Board of Directors decided that surveying Montana superintendents would be best practice to assess the perception of school district leaders throughout the state. The ultimate goal of the survey would be to define whether MASS should create a SAM Delegate Assembly Resolution or Position statement on school safety and firearms in schools.

**There were 71 of 225 MASS Members that responded to this survey – 31.5%.**

## DEMOGRAPHICS

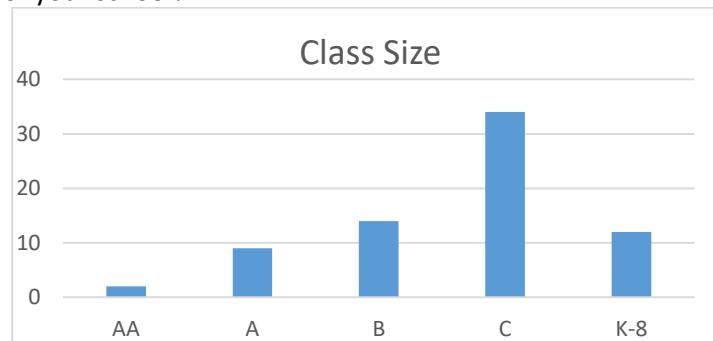
What MASS region is your school located in?

<b>4R</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15.5%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
<b>HL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>NC</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16.9%</b>
<b>NE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>NW</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
<b>SC</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>SE</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>71</b>	



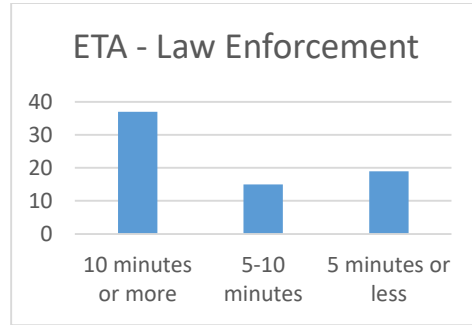
What is the MESA class size level of your school?

<b>AA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19.7%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47.9%</b>
<b>K-8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16.9%</b>
	<b>71</b>	



What is the estimated response time for law enforcement to arrive at your school in the event of a school shooting?

<b>10 minutes or more</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>5-10 minutes</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>5 minutes or less</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27%</b>



**MASS Regions**

10 minutes or more	1
5 - 10 minutes	4
5 minutes or less	6

4R

10 minutes or more	5
5 - 10 minutes	0
5 minutes or less	2

C

10 minutes or more	3
5 - 10 minutes	0
5 minutes or less	0

HL

10 minutes or more	8
5 - 10 minutes	3
5 minutes or less	1

NC

10 minutes or more	0
5 - 10 minutes	1
5 minutes or less	2

NE

10 minutes or more	3
5 - 10 minutes	3
5 minutes or less	3

NW

10 minutes or more	7
5 - 10 minutes	0
5 minutes or less	3

SC

10 minutes or more	3
5 - 10 minutes	2
5 minutes or less	1

SE

10 minutes or more	6
5 - 10 minutes	3
5 minutes or less	1

W

**Class Size**

10 minutes or more	0
5 - 10 minutes	1
5 minutes or less	1

AA

10 minutes or more	1
5 - 10 minutes	0
5 minutes or less	8

A

10 minutes or more	3
5 - 10 minutes	6
5 minutes or less	5

B

10 minutes or more	27
5 - 10 minutes	4
5 minutes or less	3

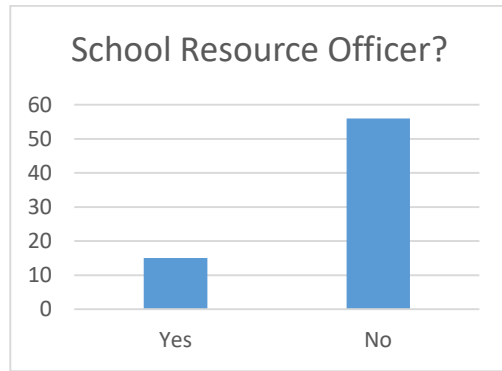
C

10 minutes or more	6
5 - 10 minutes	4
5 minutes or less	2

K-8

**Does your school currently have a School Resource Officer on duty?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>78.9%</b>



**MASS Regions**

Yes	3
No	8

4R

Yes	1
No	6

C

Yes	0
No	3

HL

Yes	2
No	10

NC

Yes	0
No	3

NE

Yes	3
No	6

NW

Yes	3
No	7

SC

Yes	1
No	5

SE

Yes	2
No	8

W

**Class Size**

Yes	2
No	0

AA

Yes	6
No	3

A

Yes	4
No	10

B

Yes	2
No	32

C

Yes	1
No	11

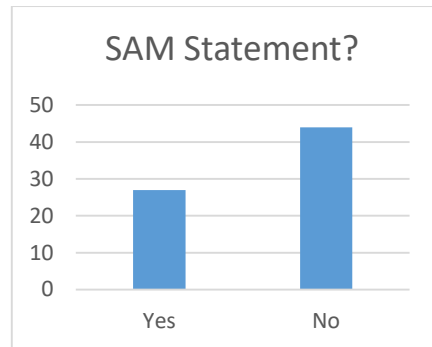
K-8

## DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

### Is it in the interest of SAM to make a statement for or against the arming of school personnel?

- Yes, we need to stand united that staff carrying guns in schools exacerbates problems in keeping students and staff safe.
- No, we need to leave this to decision making of school boards and community as outlined in current law - MCA 45-8-361.

Yes	27	38%
No	44	62%



### MASS Regions

Yes	5
No	6

4R

Yes	2
No	5

C

Yes	1
No	2

HL

Yes	7
No	5

NC

Yes	2
No	1

NE

Yes	6
No	3

NW

Yes	1
No	9

SC

Yes	1
No	5

SE

Yes	2
No	8

W

### Class Size

Yes	1
No	1

AA

Yes	5
No	4

A

Yes	6
No	8

B

Yes	10
No	24

C

Yes	5
No	7

K-8

### If any, what other topics lead you to your choice on above question? (Comments are verbatim from Survey):

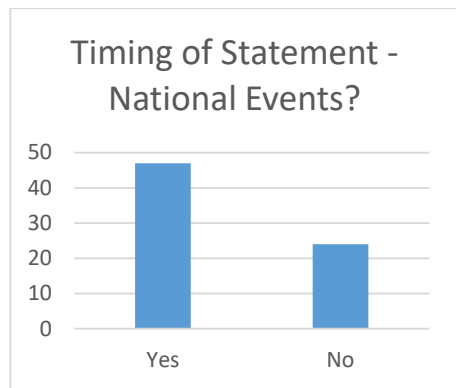
- I am not in support of school personnel carrying guns in school. This will only lead to more mistrust between school official and student and possibly community members.
- I believe the pathway to arming teachers already exists. If a school wishes to do that they can. It is a local decision. I am still very much against having my teacher carry weapons in school, but it is a local Board decision.
- I do not support arming our teachers but I do not pretend to know challenges facing every rural district in this state in regard to response times or enforcement needs. I would choose to leave this up to local control but would advise strongly against arming teachers in all but the most "needful" districts (those without a police presence, without an SRO officer, without other options).
- I feel that this is a local decision and something that needs to be handled that way. However, I also feel schools need guidance on how to pursue. Arming staff is such a deep question, and many in my community honestly think that we hand a teacher a gun and that is all we need to do make the school safe.
  - Schools admin and more specifically school board members need specific talking points on this issue to ensure that by arming staff, if they decide to go that direction they do it correctly and to a place will it limits risk and does not increase risk.
  - Talking points that I can think of:
    - Who buys the gun and for that matter what kind of gun is used?
    - Will the school have lock boxes in strategic places?
    - How often does a staff member be required to shoot to create muscle memory?
    - Will this shooting training be on their own or with a local police organization, or will we need to have local schools come together and bring in a trainer quarterly?

- What kind of stipend is the member paid as they are increasing their independent risk and taking on a very large duty?
  - Will the staff member be deputized by the local sheriff, if so what does this do a school staffs ability to search in reasonable suspicion vs probable cause scenarios?
- And I can think of a 100 more as my brain continues to go on this issue. I really think it is good conversation, but without guidance it is hard to ensure a school admin, staff and board has all the required conversations."
- I have yet to see the problem that has been properly addressed with more guns and more bullets. I strongly believe that providing access to better mental health would go farther toward addressing the problem.
- I support both of these statements, but if we have to make a choice I would say that arming teachers and other staff members will not resolve the issue while potentially increasing the opportunity for collateral damage and other liability issues that are simply not present with our Gun Free Schools.
- I also anticipate that arming staff will result in educators and staff members leaving the profession. It will NOT make many people feel safer.
- I would've said yes because I generally believe it is a lousy idea. I don't know, however, that arming school staff would inherently and immediately exacerbate safety problems. The best thing to do is leave it up to local school boards. I.e. There is already legislation in place, so what exactly are we fighting for?
- In my opinion, the State of Montana has it right. Decisions whether or not to arm school staff should be left up to individual states and individual school boards of trustees. It is understood that arming school personnel is a highly charged emotional issue. That is why it should be left up to the individual public school district boards of trustees. Some districts may opt to arm certain trained individuals and other districts may choose to not have armed staff on the school campus. I feel this way because of my career in the Army prior to my career in public education. School shooters and violence perpetrators will always choose a soft target because of the probability of success as opposed to an unknown target with an unknown probability of success. I personally, would not hesitate to concealed-carry if my board of trustees wanted me to. However, in discussions with my staff, there are several who want nothing to do with a firearm and that's okay. For me personally, student and staff safety are my number one priority, whether at the campus, off campus, on a bus or other conveyance, or in a private vehicle. School incidents of violence are conducted within a matter of minutes, usually ten or less. Local law enforcement cannot respond in a timely manner and we at my school should not expect them to respond any faster than 20 minutes.
- Is there an answer more toward the middle?
- It is not my place to make this decision for schools with dissimilar concerns. Would prefer to stay out of the volatile political discussion on this topic; MASS/SAM could harm relations with legislators.
- Local Control
- Local control should ALWAYS mean local control!
- More counselors, mental health professionals, and more social-emotional learning to help kids who may be struggling.
- Teachers should probably not be armed but school administrators should be trained in rifle use, have a rifle in a gun-safe in his/her office and be prepared to defend the children and faculty.
- There is significant research that shows that the simple presence of guns in any capacity increases the likelihood of gun injuries. The few lives that may be saved by the presence of guns in a school will not outweigh the dangers those guns present on a daily basis to staff and students - research shows this. We are academics - if we don't take a stand on something that is academically valid, then I would say we have lost our way.
- This is absolutely a local issue. The State and SAM have no business trying to influence a local school Board and community on this issue.
- We learn from a diverse set of practices - what works best and what works least - by relying on the judgment of communities to explore their own unique issues and needs

**Is the timing of an advocacy statement important to national events?**

- Yes, it would be timely and helpful to have a statement in place for federal advocacy and express an expected, collective statement from Montana Superintendents.
- No, this has no timely importance in the grand scheme of advocacy at the national level.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>66.2%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33.8%</b>



**MASS Regions**

Yes	8
No	3

4R

Yes	4
No	3

C

Yes	2
No	1

HL

Yes	10
No	2

NC

Yes	2
No	1

NE

Yes	8
No	1

NW

Yes	7
No	3

SC

Yes	1
No	5

SE

Yes	5
No	5

W

**Class Size**

Yes	2
No	0

AA

Yes	6
No	3

A

Yes	8
No	6

B

Yes	23
No	11

C

Yes	8
No	4

K-8

**If any, what other topics lead you to your choice on above question? (Comments are verbatim from Survey):**

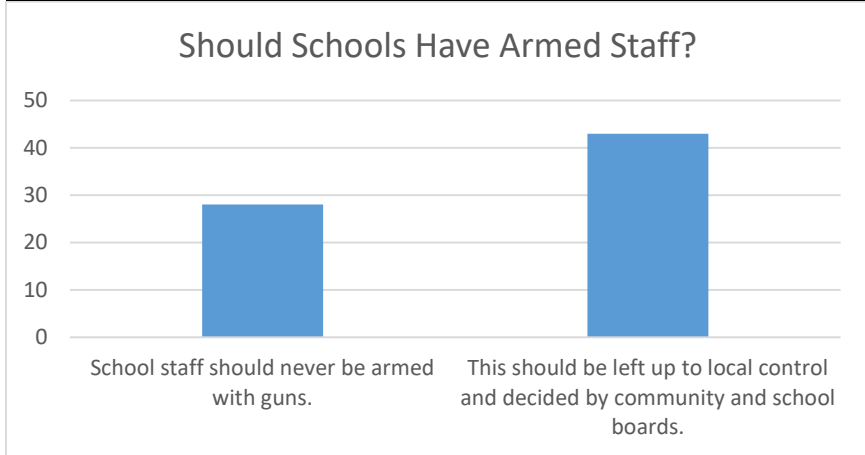
- A statement at this time would only solidify in the minds of Montana voters the perception that the Montana educational community is politically to the left of the majority of Montanans on many of the social issues they care about. Whenever the educational community becomes more vocal on social issues than they are on the fiscal issues that truly impact how well we can educate students, we are losing sight of our real priority as a coalition of associations (MT-PEC).
- Because superintendents seem to mostly agree that teachers are not the ones to arm. The matter is timely and as the decay of society continues to worsen, the problem is not going to go away. Therefore, we need to be able to defend our kids at a moment's notice.
- following the national trend is different from leading in this time of crisis. an informed direction takes time to develop into a larger strategy of keeping our communities and schools safe
- I don't think the national level should be our concern, although I advocate for our national organization to take a strong stance against this as well. My concern is that we will see bills in the next state legislative session that essentially turn school zones into the wild west. We need to advocate strongly against that and have the conviction to stand up for what is right and best for our students.

- I think this is a sensitive subject for many and the media has played it out to be a gun problem. This needs to stay at a local level decision and not add to the media frenzy.
- I think we are playing right into the hands of specific interest groups and not really thinking of our grand scheme. Just ask yourself if this was on our advocacy list a year ago or a few years ago like teacher retention and recruitment, infrastructure, special education needs, etc. Our focus has been on local control (remember the testing and NCLB advocacy). Stay true to our roots and base and let's not wander at every national political whim that happens to make it onto the scene. Student safety is obviously important and we have made it one of our highest priorities (changes in funding flexibility), let's not pretend that we as a group have the answer to this very complex issue and issuing a statement will truly fix the problem.
- If this question could be interpreted to suggest an advocacy statement related to gun control or any such firearm legislation or action, the answer is no. SAM should stay out of it. AASA already has positions and statements that are divisive which indicates there is no collective voice on the issue. Stay out of gun legislation positions entirely.
- In my opinion, at the national level, congress needs to rescind the "Gun Free Zone" designation at all public schools. Decisions whether or not to arm school staff should be left up to individual states and individual school boards of trustees. It is understood that arming school personnel is a highly charged emotional issue. That is why it should be left up to the individual public school district boards of trustees. Some districts may opt to arm certain trained individuals and other districts may choose to not have armed staff on the school campus.
- It is important but with non-public school people running the fed ed dept, how much does it sink in?
- It is not the place of Montana Superintendents to have a position on a civil right that has only peripheral impact on schools. Your politics have no place whatsoever in the education of children.
- Of course we all need to have our voices heard, and the concern should reverberate through our state.
- Recent school shootings and March for our Lives or Enough is Enough movements.
- There is a FAR more likely chance a student will take their own life, than to have a shooting on campus. I suggest we spend our energy in places that may have a larger impact than to hope into the political arena on what is the "hot topic".
- This is a current issue in our country.
- This should be a local control issue. However, a statement reflecting the survey results would be important at the national level so they know where administration in MT stands at the local level.
- We all know this is coming. We can have a voice or be told what will happen.
- We are the educational leaders in our state. We need to lead and be respectful of the diverse views and districts we represent. Our big challenge on many fronts is our diversity - which is also one of our strengths. Drafting a collective statement will be difficult to ensure it is representative.

# FIREARMS IN SCHOOLS - STAFF CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS OR NOT

Should schools have armed personnel (other than SROs if employed)?

<b>School staff should never be armed with guns.</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39.4%</b>
<b>This should be left up to local control and decided by community and school boards.</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>60.6%</b>



## MASS Regions

Never Armed	5
Local Control	6

4R

Never Armed	5
Local Control	2

C

Never Armed	2
Local Control	1

HL

Never Armed	6
Local Control	6

NC

Never Armed	1
Local Control	2

NE

Never Armed	2
Local Control	7

NW

Never Armed	8
Local Control	2

SC

Never Armed	5
Local Control	1

SE

Never Armed	9
Local Control	1

W

## Class Size

Never Armed	1
Local Control	1

AA

Never Armed	4
Local Control	5

A

Never Armed	6
Local Control	8

B

Never Armed	11
Local Control	23

C

Never Armed	6
Local Control	6

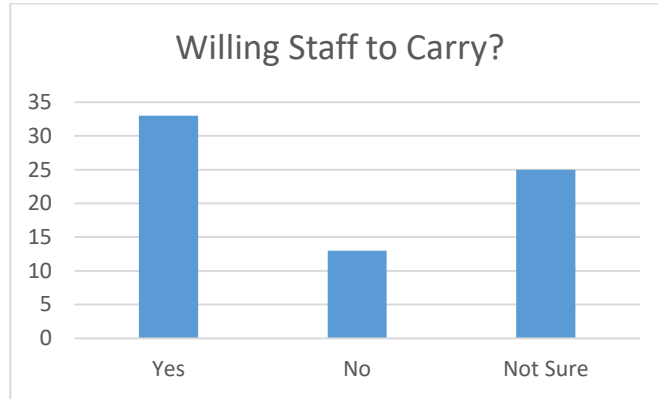
K-8



**Do you think there would be any staff in your schools that would be willing to carry a weapon in the school environment each day?**

- Yes - with proper training there would be some willing staff.
- No - no amount of training can prepare the mindset of staff that have any hesitancy or resistance to carrying a gun.
- Not Sure

Yes	33	46.5%
No	13	18.3%
Not Sure	25	35.2%



**MASS Regions**

Yes	4
No	3
Not Sure	4

4R

Yes	5
No	0
Not Sure	2

C

Yes	1
No	2
Not Sure	0

HL

Yes	4
No	2
Not Sure	6

NC

Yes	2
No	0
Not Sure	1

NE

Yes	3
No	1
Not Sure	5

NW

Yes	3
No	4
Not Sure	3

SC

Yes	3
No	0
Not Sure	3

SE

Yes	8
No	1
Sure	1

W

**Class Size**

Yes	2
No	0
Not Sure	0

AA

Yes	3
No	1
Not Sure	5

A

Yes	4
No	3
Not Sure	7

B

Yes	19
No	6
Not Sure	9

C

Yes	5
No	3
Not Sure	4

K-8

**How have you made this assessment from your response in the above question (Comments are verbatim from Survey)?**

- A few staff have offered to be armed.
- Access to weapons, except by certified and qualified law enforcement personnel, makes schools less safe.
- Asked the question of staff that have military experience.
- Based on unsolicited feedback from real school staff.
- By dealing with hundreds of employees over the years, and studying people. Not all people have the know-how and capacity to carry a gun.
- Conversations
- Conversations we have had at our Safety Committee meetings.

- Conversations with staff.
- Discussion with staff.
- Discussions at all Faculty meeting in the past month.
- Discussions with staff members.
- Discussions, but they want extra pay for the extra responsibility.
- Fear of firearms getting in the hands of students
- From conversations we have had as a staff and knowing the skills/interests of my staff, the options of who would carry a gun are very limited. I see two members, including myself, that would be the best candidates. I prefer not to carry and I have not talked directly with the other candidate.
- Guns don't belong in schools
- Have not engaged the staff directly on topic.
- haven't made any assessment regarding this question
- I am closely in touch with reality. I like it here.
- I am totally against having armed school staff in schools. It doesn't even make sense to me having staff members carrying a weapon. Only worse things can happen if guns are allowed.
- I am unsure where my teachers fall on this issue.
- I believe we had or may have some staff members who may be willing to have access to a weapon-not necessarily carry. Average local 911 response time exceeds 10 minutes depending on availability of officers and distance. Rural schools must either employ an SRO or have others trained to use a weapon.
- I can go either way on this topic depending on what individuals we are discussing.
- I do believe that there are a few staff members who would be willing to carry a weapon in school, but I have not asked them directly, so I marked Not Sure.
- I do not believe so- most are opposed if not all.
- I don't my staff carrying.
- I don't want my staff to have a gun both as a parent and as an administrator. I've dealt a student with a gun on campus, an report of a sniper in the area of the school, and an actual bomb. I've never needed a gun and don't believe anyone but law enforcement needs to have one on campus.
- I feel I have one or two staff members with the skills and the mindset to go through a training process and be able to commit to this. However, I am unsure if they are actually understanding the responsibility they would be taking on.
- I have a staff of 300 and have not asked anyone if they would be willing.
- I have been approached by those staff members.
- I have briefly talked about weapons carried by staff in the school setting. It wasn't well received but I could see some if properly trained that would be willing to. Just not for sure on the matter.
- I have had one teacher tell me he would be willing. He is former military.
- I have informally asked a small group of staff members
- I have not asked
- I have not spoken to very many other folks, so I really don't know.
- I have talked to some of the staff and the board regarding this issue.
- I have talked with my staff about this topic on more than one occasion, usually several times a year. This topic comes up at regular staff meetings when a school shooting happens. That is why I know that it is an emotional issue and a very personal decision to carry or not to carry. When questioned by

me, those staff who will not carry said they would provide protection as best they could for their students and give their life if necessary. I'm okay with that.

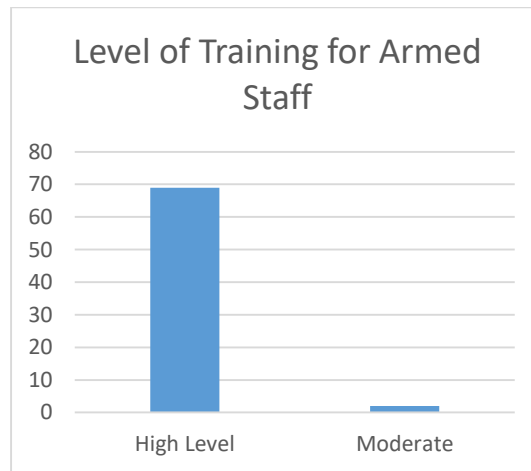
- I have visited with appropriate staff members.
- I have visited with staff
- I haven't asked them
- I just know the level of training and proficiency of a few of my staff, and their commitment to protect kids.
- I know that I have a teacher on staff with a concealed weapon permit; however, that person would not even want to carry during the school day. The mindset required to carry a firearm and engage a hostile threat is very different from the mindset that most teachers have.
- I made this assessment because I am not sure, I have never had this conversation with staff and were this to become a conversation we had to have as a staff and school community (who is willing to be armed) I would leave public schools immediately.
- I'm not sure of gun talent in our district.
- Informal discussions.
- Informal discussions.
- It has been a topic of discussion for several years at staff and board meetings. Most would prefer the administration to be the one to carry.
- No
- passing conversations
- personal interviews
- Recently had active shooter training and staff was vocal about not arming teachers or having weapons in school.
- Research shows that more firearms accidents happen in areas that have firearms available.
- Schools already have enough mandates that have to be addressed. Adding guns to schools would be a nightmare for school boards and administration, who already have enough on their plates. It would only be a matter of time before something tragic happened in a classroom if guns were allowed in schools.
- Some teachers realize the true nature of the problem and also realize that it is a teacher who is often the first line of defense, and because unarmed, would be among the casualty list instead of being part of the solution. ALICE Training is great; but you don't take random classroom objects to a gunfight when it is "you" that should be able to protect children. We need to be able to fight back; if we are honest about protecting kids.
- Staff comments and I've had at least two staff members who have said they would be willing to be armed.
- Staff members have talked to me about their willingness to do so.
- staff's regard for student safety and willingness to put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others
- Talking to staff
- Teachers in lower grade are adamantly against staff carrying a gun, for the reason of instilling fear in little children.
- The school environment is known to be "gun free;" not a deterrent to an active shooter.
- This question should be reconsidered. There is already research that shows that the presence of guns in any capacity increases the likelihood of gun injuries. This question asks for an opinion on something already academically proven.
- Through discussions with our building principals
- Through general conversations.
- Very simply, I asked them.
- We conducted a staff survey

- We discussed this in a board meeting. At the board meeting there were a few teachers and the teachers there said they would carry. I have also talked with my administrative staff about this and know they would carry as well.
- We have discussed this in staff meetings.
- We have not talked about staff being armed as a district.
- We have not. Statistically schools are one of the safest places for kids. Far safer than cars, homes, and in some areas neighborhoods. I think we should be telling our communities that schools are safe and not reacting to the pressure from groups that have agendas that may not have our best interests.
- We have talked about it as a staff and not a single person is willing or even remotely interested in carrying a weapon. They got into teaching to help students, not carry guns.

**What level of training would an armed school personnel need?**

- High-level - carrying and firing a weapon are exceptional skills where use and safety aspects need to be innate with the bearer of the weapon
- Moderate-level - many of our staff have great experience with guns; as training would be necessary, it may not need to be extensive.

High	69	97.2%
Moderate	2	2.8%



**MASS Regions**

High Level	11
Moderate	0

4R

High Level	7
Moderate	0

C

High Level	3
Moderate	0

HL

High Level	11
Moderate	1

NC

High Level	3
Moderate	0

NE

High Level	9
Moderate	0

NW

High Level	10
Moderate	0

SC

High Level	5
Moderate	1

SE

High Level	10
Moderate	0

W

**Class Size**

High Level	2
Moderate	0

AA

High Level	9
Moderate	0

A

High Level	14
Moderate	0

B

High Level	32
Moderate	2

C

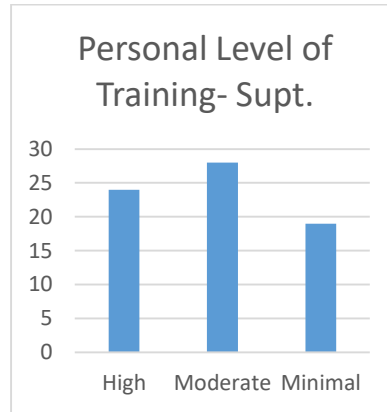
High Level	12
Moderate	0

K-8

**What is your personal experience with firearms?**

- High - I have had training and would need minimal training.
- Moderate - I have some experience in firing a gun and have great sense of safety using a firearm.
- Minimal - I would need high-level training.

High	24	33.8%
Moderate	28	39.4%
Minimal	19	26.8%



**MASS Regions**

High	2
Moderate	8
Minimal	1

4R

High	3
Moderate	3
Minimal	1

C

High	2
Moderate	0
Minimal	1

HL

High	2
Moderate	6
Minimal	4

NC

High	1
No Moderate	1
Minimal	1

NE

High	2
Moderate	3
Minimal	4

NW

High	1
Moderate	5
Minimal	4

SC

High	3
Moderate	1
Minimal	2

SE

High	8
Moderate	1
Minimal	1

W

**Class Size**

High	0
Moderate	2
Minimal	0

AA

High	3
Moderate	6
Minimal	0

A

High	5
Moderate	5
Minimal	4

B

High	11
Moderate	14
Minimal	9

C

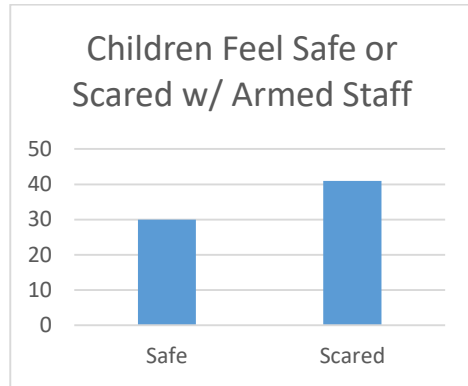
High	4
Moderate	5
Minimal	3

K-8

**Do armed personnel make children feel safe or vulnerable (scared)?**

- Scared - children would feel hesitant with staff and feel more inhibited interacting with staff; feeling uneasy.
- Safe - children would have more of a sense of well-being knowing that there are armed staff in the building.

Scared	41	57.7%
Safe	30	42.3%



**MASS Regions**

Scared	9
Safe	2

4R

Scared	4
Safe	3

C

Scared	1
Safe	2

HL

Scared	6
Safe	6

NC

Scared	2
Safe	1

NE

Scared	8
Safe	1

NW

Scared	6
Safe	4

SC

Scared	3
Safe	3

SE

Scared	3
Safe	7

W

**Class Size**

Scared	2
Safe	0

AA

Scared	7
Safe	2

A

Scared	10
Safe	4

B

Scared	15
Safe	19

C

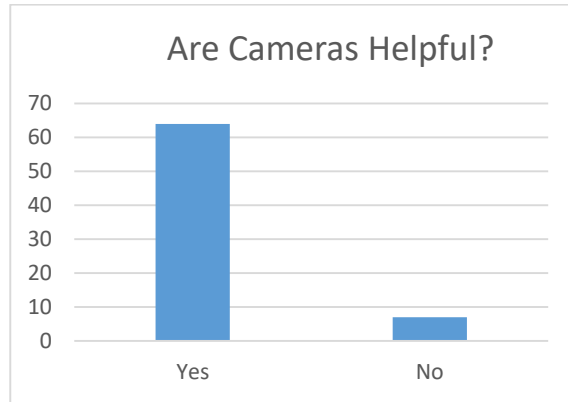
Scared	7
Safe	5

K-8

**Are cameras and other physical security instruments helpful?**

- Yes, any instrument that can shave seconds off an intruder’s access or give forewarning will save more lives.
- No, an active shooter that might have a plan will find their way around detection and deterrence.

Yes	64	90.1%
No	7	9.9%



**MASS Regions**

Yes	10
No	1

4R

Yes	6
No	1

C

Yes	3
No	0

HL

Yes	10
No	2

NC

Yes	3
No	0

NE

Yes	9
No	0

NW

Yes	10
No	0

SC

Yes	4
No	2

SE

Yes	9
No	1

W

**Class Size**

Yes	1
No	1

AA

Yes	9
No	0

A

Yes	13
No	1

B

Yes	30
No	4

C

Yes	11
No	1

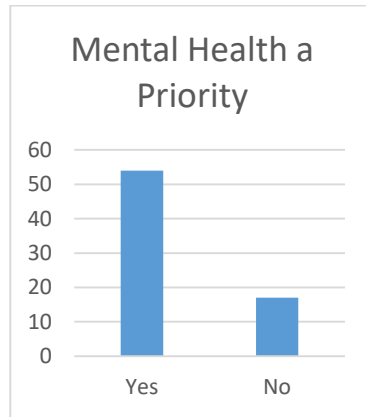
K-8

# MENTAL HEALTH

## Is mental healthcare a priority in your community?

- Yes, with the varying experiences and situations that have occurred in our community.
- No, most community members do not see mental healthcare as a top priority.

<b>Yes</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>76.1%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23.9%</b>



### MASS Regions

Yes	10
No	1

4R

Yes	4
No	3

C

Yes	3
No	0

HL

Yes	9
No	3

NC

Yes	2
No	1

NE

Yes	6
No	3

NW

Yes	8
No	2

SC

Yes	3
No	3

SE

Yes	9
No	1

W

### Class Size

Yes	1
No	1

AA

Yes	9
No	0

A

Yes	9
No	5

B

Yes	25
No	9

C

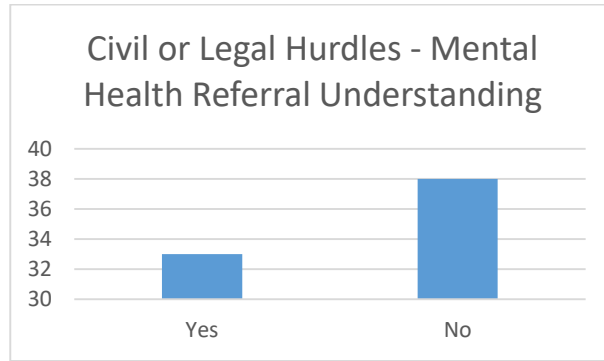
Yes	10
No	2

K-8



**Do civil or legal hurdles make it difficult to understand mental health referrals in your community?**

Yes	33	46.5%
No	38	53.5%



**MASS Regions**

Yes	3
No	8

4R

Yes	5
No	2

C

Yes	0
No	3

HL

Yes	7
No	5

NC

Yes	0
No	3

NE

Yes	6
No	3

NW

Yes	7
No	3

SC

Yes	0
No	6

SE

Yes	5
No	5

W

**Class Size**

Yes	2
No	0

AA

Yes	5
No	4

A

Yes	6
No	8

B

Yes	14
No	20

C

Yes	6
No	6

K-8

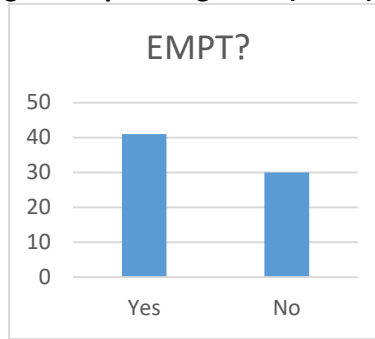
**Explain Why?** (Comments are verbatim from Survey - Not Required)

- Access to reliable information
- Bia laws and tribal laws are different. Very different.
- Community members are unsure of what needs to be done to obtain services and how to keep their need confidential.
- Confidentiality factor and many people still have a perception that mental health is a weakness so legal or civil issues become more of a hurdle.
- Funding and medicaid makes mental health difficult to fully fund and adequately promote those services.
- Help is usually in reaction to a problem not preventative.
- I have mixed feelings on this topic. HIPPA and FERPA have a place in protecting an individual's privacy. However, at some point individuals with perceived or diagnosed mental health issues need to be identified. School personnel (classroom teachers, support staff) are getting better at identifying students who may be mentally unstable. We discuss those students at our staff meetings. we are a small enough school that every student is well known and we know their backgrounds as well.
- I think it's safe to say that mental health and SPED issues in general put fear into quite a few of our staff.
- information is confidential
- Lack of coordination between agencies creates hurdles.
- Lack of funding
- Lack of services
- Limited resources or no response from authorized agencies
- Many parents and students refuse help. Lack of resources for those that do want help is an issue in our community.
- Mental health disorders are not met with the same understanding as other medical disorders.

- Mental health is a tough topic. mainly because parents of students with mental health issues usually have their own mental health issues. This makes it difficult to get kids the help they need. That coupled with the fact we do not have the resources or knowledge to help with mental health issues in the school setting.
- More demand than we have service.
- more education is needed on what is meant by mental health services and the limits of state agencies to intervene
- not mandated
- Numerous students in our community would benefit from mental health resources, however their parents suffer from the same issues, and thus have distrust of the school, hospitals and other authority figures. Thus this limits their child access to care and resources.
- Often placement for treatment is based more on the availability of insurance than need.
- Our big hurdle is communication between schools and most outside school mental health organizations. We have been meeting with these groups for a year trying to break the barriers so there can be a sharing of information between school and mental health agencies.
- Our hurdles is lack of resources available in the community.
- People don't want to get involved. They fear that they might become victims. It shows who's running the show.
- People see mental health as an area of weakness. People should be able to "buck up".
- Privacy laws and issues
- Privacy rights
- serious issues are not shared with school official due to privacy protection rights.
- The hospital referral there seems to be a miss communication. I have heard from parents that the process is long and in the end they get dismissed.
- There are too many hindrances in place that protect identified students.
- There is always red tape
- This is just a complex issue. What constitutes a mental health referral? A student having gone through an ugly breakup with their significant other?
- We have very little contact with local mental health officials.

**Does your community have a local emergency management planning team (EMPT)?**

Yes	41	57.7%
No	30	42.3%



Do you participate? How often? (Comments are verbatim from the Survey – Not Required):

- A few time a year.
- At least one staff member participates annually.
- Attend quarterly meetings or read the shared documents.
- Every 12 months.
- I do monthly
- I have been asked to be on the committee. I will accept
- I have been involved twice in meetings in Lewistown.
- I participate when needed.
- I'm the chair. We have monthly meetings.
- min. of 4 times a year or as needed
- minimally
- Monthly
- no
- no
- No
- No, I don't participate regularly. I participate when I am able. The emergency planners usually meet in the county seat which is about 30 minutes away driving time. The emergency planners are very good about communicating with me via e-mail messages.
- Not at this point.
- Not yet.
- Our school has a representative on that team that meets monthly
- Quarterly
- Quarterly
- Several times a year
- They meet quarterly.
- Twice a year we have a District Safety Meeting with all parties to discuss safety issues. We also plan drills involving local entities and the school. i.e Active Shooter Drill

**MASS Regions**

Yes	7
No	4

4R

Yes	4
No	3

C

Yes	0
No	3

HL

Yes	6
No	6

NC

Yes	3
No	0

NE

Yes	6
No	3

NW

Yes	6
No	4

SC

Yes	6
No	0

SE

Yes	3
No	7

W

**Class Size**

Yes	2
No	0

AA

Yes	8
No	1

A

Yes	9
No	5

B

Yes	18
No	16

C

Yes	4
No	8

K-8

- We are just beginning the process
- We meet monthly, I only attend 4-6 a year.
- We meet twice a year and yes I do participate.
- Yes, and quarterly.
- Yes, monthly
- Yes, occasionally
- yes, 4x year
- yes, a couple times year
- Yes, at least annually.
- Yes, meetings are held every other month.
- Yes, monthly
- yes, once or twice a year
- Yes, quarterly with our full team, additional quarterly with core team, plus during incidents and immediately following incidents for debrief; also monthly safety meetings
- Yes, quarterly.
- Yes. Bi-monthly.
- Yes. After incident meetings and planning
- Yes. The group/team meets once a month. It's a local/county team.

#### FINAL COMMENTS:

- Arming school staff is not a gun issue or a mental health issue. It is a society and parental issue. No matter how much time we put into school safety and mental health it will be difficult to correct some of the issues schools are facing unless there is a change with parents/society.
- District's SRO is only part-time and shared with several other school districts
- Great job on the questions!!
- I hear everyone talk about mental healthcare being a problem. However, state and federal funding constantly gets cut. I also believe the family dynamics have changed drastically in the last 20 years as well as the absence of god. I think all three of the reasons combined are the root of the problem.
- I strongly believe that this is not a topic that SAM/MASS should get involved in other to support local control and the existing state laws.
- I think kids feel safe when there is law enforcement in the building. I don't think they need to know if a staff member is armed. A sign in front of the building could simply state that there may be an armed staff member in the building. Our students are very familiar with weapons, as most of them hunt.
- I think that some of these questions were worded in such a way as to try and influence members to select the answer wanted by SAM. I enjoy my fellow Superintendents, but it seems to me that our group is far too liberal on many issues. I also think that if people disagree with the ""powers that be"" in SAM their opinions are ideas are written off with no semblance of legitimacy.

- We are in the business of making young minds independent and self-sufficient, not this path of dependency and expectations of schools we seem to touting. We are in the business of providing 1080 hours of academic instruction as prescribed by law, not raising other people's kids. Parents need to be parents and we are not the surrogates."
- In most cases these kids come to school to commit suicide by gunfire. I don't think they care who they face. Furthermore, I don't think it is the job of teachers to kill these students even to protect others. I think there is a large amount of training needed in order to do this and I am afraid that even trained officers make many mistakes in these situations that have led to a lot of public criticism and outrage (shooting someone with a cell phone, someone falsely, etc.). Most old buildings have cement block halls and you would need a specific ammo that wouldn't bounce off. I would hate to have a teacher shooting down a hall and a shooter shooting down the hall. I would guess that the kid would kill several student and the staff member would kill several, in all these cases the school would lose and potentially never recover from the liability for sure the teacher would never recover. However, in some limited areas, it might be the only thing that can be done. I am thinking of very rural, isolated areas where they might have a well-trained person. I wouldn't want to completely rule some exceptions out.
- It is disappointing in this survey we have to answer every question. There are questions that can really be misleading and do not address our concerns, but can send a message that is not accurate.
- It is really hypocritical that there is such a big uproar for additional gun laws and restrictions because of the school shootings. We have a liberal justice system that does not hold these dirt-bags accountable for their actions. We have a lot of critics of gun ownership who sit silently by as thousands of innocent lives are taken each year through legalized murder (abortions). Again, no accountability for the dirt-bags who perform these murders.
- It's not a "mental health issue". It's a destruction of society issue. Permissiveness, a drug culture, a loss for the value of life, disregard for fellow man, a lack of parenting/love/boundaries given to kids by people who are producing children but are not "parents" are producing a very angry generation alongside a declining collection of kids that are loved and nurtured properly.
- Leave this issue to local boards. I find a poll from NEA indicating teachers' opposition to "arming teachers" to be entirely irrelevant. Teachers, as a national block, take a whole range of positions that do not mirror the political opinions of Montanans.
- My concern is the lack of law Enforcement in our community.
- On the question you asked regarding if the students feel safe or scared if the staff is armed...should have been a not sure answer as we have not addressed this issue with our students and not sure if we will, especially with the elementary.
- "Regarding the question of whether students feel safe or scared. I'm not sure how students would feel. I think some kids may feel safer and others scared - most likely depends on what is communicated in the home. Also, I think there are issues if students and parents know exactly who is carrying a concealed gun and I'm not sure how you would ever keep that ""concealed."" It's not that hard to spot.
- Thanks for taking the time to put the survey together and for asking for our input."
- Safety is one of my biggest concerns. Any resources will be appreciated.
- School safety is going to require more dedication to funding at the state and national level. We are in a very rural setting and our county deputies could be 45 minutes to an hour away. Though not all security measures are 100% effective, current resources (funding and physical) do not yet support adequate security.
- Schools initial reaction to these tragic events has been to lock the doors, install cameras, and install buzzer systems in an attempt to stop an active shooter. Did the recent shootings occur in schools with these precautions? If so what are our "realistic options" to stop someone with a weapon?

- Thanks for this fact finding
- The County has an emergency management planning team (LEPC) and members of our community and staff attend some meetings. Also we have hosted mock disaster training.
- The county has an emergency management planning team, but school personnel have never been included on the team. As the school moves forward with updating its emergency operations plan, it is imperative that the county is a part of the school's EOP and vice versa.
- The idea to arm teachers to defend schools is nothing but a cynical ploy to sell more guns. As citizens and leaders in our communities, we need to stand up for what is right and best for our students, not what the NRA and gun manufacturers do to get people to buy more guns. Not only should we come out against arming teachers, our state and national associations should make a strong statement about the need for common sense gun control and assault weapon bans. I am a lifelong hunter and rural superintendent, so this does not come from a liberal or conservative viewpoint. It is from the view point of common sense and compassion.
- The question about whether or not kids would be scared or feel safe with an armed staff member on site is not a simple yes or no, two choice question. That is such an over simplification that it makes me question the validity of the entire survey.
- There are a number of options than can be implemented to minimize the incidents of school shootings. The first item is to do away with advertising that public schools are an easy soft target. The "Gun Free Zone" designation for public schools must go. The decision to arm school staff must be a local decision made by the local board of trustees. And finally, it is a personal decision by school staff whether to carry or not to carry. If the decision to carry is made, then top-notch firearms training must be sustained and maintained.
- This is a horrible sign of the times that we have to have these types of discussions. I hope that we can quickly dismiss the possibility of arming teachers as a solution.
- We are a small community and most of our medical needs, including mental health, go through Lewistown. Our community may have a local emergency management planning team but I do not know of and have not participated in any meetings. I have participated in regional safety meetings in Lewistown.
- We share a school resource officer with 11 other rural schools. I don't know what kids would think of it- I think most wouldn't even realize and the rest would be anxious- and their parents would be lined up at my door.