

1) FASTER Saves Lives is a program of the Buckeye Firearms FOUNDATION (not association). Buckeye Firearms Foundation is a 501c3 educational charity started in 2008 with a focus on youth firearm safety training. In addition to running youth safety and training events, we also have worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio to provide safe firearm storage material and safes for pediatric physicians to provide to gun owning parents with small children. We also have partnered with the Franklin county LOSS suicide prevention program to provide material to gun stores and owner on suicide prevention items. Then after the murders at Sandy Hook Elementary School we were approached by schools to help them expand and improve their safety and security programs and this was the start of the FASTER Saves Lives training program.

2) There are a few state mandated school security items but most are left up to the individual school board. Each school is required to develop and submit a school security plan to the Ohio Department of Education and I believe they are required to run at least one drill a year. The state used to publish a list of schools that had not met this requirement but stopped doing that a few years ago as they had too many schools not meeting the minimum requirements.

3) Studies by Mr. Ron Borsch, former lead trainer at SEALE Regional Police Training Academy and current manager at PACT Consultant Group, have shown that on average in a Rapid Mass Murder(c) event each minute you allow the violence to continue you will see 5-7 additional dead or injured. The numbers are usually higher in the first couple of minutes because most times the killer starts the violence when they have a large number of victims in close proximity.

4) Through the 1990's schools were working hard to adopt a more open and inviting environment for their students, staff and community. This also coincided with the peak of violence in schools so they realized as they were inviting the community in, they were also more open to violent persons. Since that time schools have started to continually improve safety using more of a layered approach.

5) Nothing will ever be 100% effective but most violent events can be prevented ahead of time especially if the threat comes from someone directly tied to the school. The most widely adopted improvements include single points of entry to the school, sign-in/sign-out and escort procedures for visitors and contractors, anonymous tip-lines, monitoring of social media, training staff to look for and identify changes in behavior or personality or employing psychologists in the school. All of these can be very effective. The best thing schools or other locations can do is remove the restriction on the lawful carry of firearms. The 'no-gun zones' are where the majority of the active killer events occur.

6) I think by getting the entire student, staff and community involved and including multiple overlapping layers in a security plan is the least intrusive and most effective. Like it or not each person in the school has a vested interest in helping to identify and alert the school to threats. You want them to be a part of the solution, not isolate or restrict them so that they feel powerless

7) See 5 and 6 above

8) Again, the entire community is part of the solution. Most events are talked about to someone before they occur. But schools also have to be secretive on exactly how they are implementing their security plans. We recommend that schools deciding to include firearms, either with armed SROs or other armed staff, in their safety plans to make this decision public but then keep all the details such as who it is, where they are, how many there are etc etc part of their private security plan. If there are actual events which have occurred then the schools should be as transparent as possible with the community

9) Law enforcement want to do everything they can, the problem is they simply can not be there when they are needed. They are coming, but people are dieing while they are coming. A large number of police departments are training for solo officer response to active killers. This means that the first officer to arrive goes in alone and takes the fight to the killer. Even if they can't end the situation, they can change the killer's focus away from innocent victims. The problem is that law enforcement is like every other job in the world. The truth is half of them are above average and half are below average and unfortunately you don't get to pick which one is showing up. This was very evident at Parkland where the SRO and at least 2 other security people did nothing to stop the killer. This is one reason schools are looking at arming staff. While nothing is 100%, if the schools get to pick the people, set the training, specify the qualification level and on going training at least it takes some of the variables away and they have some idea of the people and their dedication and skill level who will be coming to help.

10) It is not about arming staff, the media just always focus on that because it gets them the headlines and the website clicks. FASTER is about saving lives while you are waiting on the professionals to arrive. Once violence starts the only way to save lives is to 1) Stop the killing as soon as possible and 2) Stop the dieing as soon as possible by having the medical tools and training in the building already. When I first started volunteering for FASTER I was shocked that violence was just about the only emergency where some schools were comfortable saying their only plans was "we will wait on outside help". I would ask them if they would use the same plan if a kid fell in a swimming pool? If a kid falls in a pool, you don't just dial 911 and stand on the side of the pool and wait for help. No you jump in the pool, pull the kid out, all staff is trained in CRP and you start saving lives while the professionals are on the way. This way when they do get there you have the best chance of having live viable patients to transfer to them instead of victims. Firearms have to be a part of the solution because they are the most certain way to safely handle #1 (Stop the killing). They are not always going to be needed because many times as soon as any resistance is shown the killers stop. We saw this right here at Chardin High School when coach Hall simply verbally confronted the killer causing him to leave the building. But sometime this is not enough and then you end up with good loving school staff such as Dawn Hocksprung, Mary Sherlach and Aaron Fies giving up the rest of their lives to buy the kids a few more seconds of life. Every time one of these events happen we see certain staff willingly put themselves between a murderer with a gun and the innocent kids. As a school, community and nation we owe it to these people to help them have the best chance of going home to their families at the end of everyday. We need to let them tell us what they are comfortable with. Are they happy with the training they have? Do they want the trauma medical training to help save lives? Or do they want access to the best tools and training including firearms to help save lives? The firearms are only a small part of FASTER. It also includes information on what to expect based on past events, general crisis and emergency management training, how to deal with large crowds, how to move safely through other people with and without a firearm and most importantly trauma medical training to start immediately providing critical care.

11) For the first part see #10 above. For the second, there is no good ratio or count simply because the key to a safe and effective program is choosing the right people to be involved. This is not a program where you could ever think of including someone who does not want to be part of the program. As mentioned in #10 above, every school right now has at least one staff member who if violence comes there tomorrow will willingly run toward the violence and do anything they can to protect our kids. Lets identify those people first and get them the training they want to survive. Teachers should be able to live for our kids, not have to die for them.

12) If schools were not making the decision to include firearms in their safety plan already there would not be a FASTER program. Are goal is to make sure that if there is going to be guns in a school they are not in the hands of criminals or untrained people. Schools choose the staff who are willing, dedicated and who the school is comfortable with and then send them to us for training by this nation's most knowledgeable experts on how they can safely and effectively include firearms in their safety and security plans. Then the schools provide oversight and ongoing education and practice and training for the staff involved.

13) That is the magic number that everyone wants to know and that there is no way to ever know. When announced the first class in spring of 2013 for 24 school staff, we have over 2000 people apply within the first several weeks. Since that time FASTER has trained over 2,600 staff from over 260 school districts across 18 states. We have trained staff from 79 of Ohio's 88 counties. But this is only the ones that have worked with us. It does not include schools which are working with their local police or other groups. Other states such as Utah to not even require the teachers to tell the school they have firearms and the entire general public in that state is also permitted to carry in schools. There simply is no way to know how many schools or people. Every district which has publicly announced their decision to include firearms in their safety plan reported that a large majority of their community is supporting that decision. There will always be a small minority who simply refuse to try to understand why schools are making this choice to improve safety.

14) See answers above.

15) Thankfully not really. We have had one school staff have to pull his gun during the day but as soon as he did the kid immediately dropped his weapon and surrendered before anyone was hurt. This is the best outcome possible, no one was hurt and the young man get to receive the help he obviously needs. We have had other schools with armed staff have suicides in their schools but they did not have to utilize their firearms. Other persons have used the trauma medical training in accidents at their schools.

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