

## **Is it beneficial for teachers to be armed in school?**

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On May 24th, 2022, in Uvalde, Texas, 18 year old Salvador Ramos killed 21 innocent people in Robb Elementary School. Throughout most of the shooting, the gunman stayed in mainly two conjoined classrooms. Most kids in these classrooms were killed or injured. The gun used was an AR-15, leaving some of the students with baseball-sized holes in their bodies from the impact. AR-15s are the same guns soldiers have used since Vietnam. Some students, as young as 9 years old, had to cover themselves in their classmates' blood in order to pretend they were dead and stay alive. The police were called to the school yet they stayed outside for an hour and 14 minutes before entering. Because of this, 19 students and two teachers were killed. Some may say nothing could have been done to prevent this terrible event. Other people think it could have been avoided.

On the one hand, some believe teachers carrying guns would solve this problem. According to the National Institutes of Health, school-aged children in the United States are more likely to die from a firearm injury than from any other cause of death. It is terrible to hear adults being killed from guns, but to think that children's leading cause of death is from guns is despicable. If an attack in the classroom did happen, the teacher would be able to react fast and injure or kill the attacker. This would prevent more students from being harmed. If the qualifications to carry a concealed weapon are met by teachers, it could possibly be beneficial to ensure that the children in our schools are as safe as can be.

On the other hand, people believe that arming teachers in school is not beneficial and that it is actually more dangerous. Some people think that if teachers are armed, children will be exposed to more gun violence. One of the most important groups arguing that teachers shouldn't be armed is the parents of children. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, 63% of parents with school-aged children believe arming teachers does more harm than good. Anyone can become dangerous at any time, including teachers. Handing them a gun can cause other unwanted situations. Even if teachers are qualified to carry guns, is it safe to have guns in the classroom? If students know where the gun is, it is possible they can harm people themselves.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Should teachers be armed? What kind of qualifications do teachers need to have guns in the classroom?
2. What is the best way to keep children in schools safe from gun violence?
3. Should students know where the gun is located in class?