

**Michigan Association of School Psychologists Statement  
on Guns in Schools  
(Adopted by the MASP Executive Board on October 25th, 2015)**

Educators have a responsibility to maintain safe, secure, and peaceful learning environments. But guns in schools put educators in extremely difficult positions. A building principal recently said, "If I'm sitting in my office and see someone walking up to my building with a gun, what am I supposed to do?"

In this situation, the school must conduct a threat assessment to ensure that all students are safe. However, this cannot reasonably be done in the moment that an armed individual walks through the school door. To ensure safety, the school must declare a lockdown and call the police. Students, teachers and other school staff may become frightened and their very psychological safety is in question; under these circumstances, teaching and learning ceases. Ultimately, the police arrive and, after a time, the educational process can resume. However, the end result for many is stress and anxiety which impacts the capacity to engage in academic tasks. This is counterproductive to both learning and mental health and is the opposite of what schools are striving to maintain.

It is the position of the Michigan Association of School Psychologists and the National Association of School Psychologists that guns in schools should be restricted to on-duty law enforcement officers and/or Commissioned School Resource officers.