# Lessons Learned in Parkland, Florida: Advocating for Improved Intergovernmental Coordination & Safer Schools

With Rep. Jared Moskowitz; Michele Mellgren, AICP; Carole Morris; and John J. Sullivan

# There were nearly 1,300 more threats made at U.S. schools this past year, report finds

USA TODAY • 7 days ago

Marina Pitofsky, USA TODAY Published 5:04 p.m. ET Aug. 14, 2018 | Updated 2:53 p.m. ET Aug. 16, 2018

*(Photo: Rhona Wiserhona Wise)*

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Violent incidents in schools increased 113 percent during the past school year, a new study finds.

Schools saw 279 violent incidents during the 2017-18 school year, up from 131 the previous year, according to a study by the Educator's School Safety Network, a national non-profit school safety organization.

The study, released Aug. 6, found that the most frequent violent incident was finding a gun on campus, followed by shootings and thwarted attacks. The study also found an increase in threats of violence in schools across the country, with nearly 1,300 more threats made during the current school year compared with last year.

The uptick can't be traced back to a single cause, according to Amy Klinger, director of programs at the Educator's School Safety Network and co-author of the report. She said the main reason schools are seeing an increase in violence is because not enough preventive action is taken until it's too late.

It's back to school in Parkland -- but hardly back to normal

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Florida's sobering new focus on school security creates a challenge: How to protect and not stoke fear.

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In post-Parkland era, back to school means homework, new friends — and armed guards

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In the age of mass shootings, back-to-school season feels like a return to danger

USA TODAY • today

# My daughter died at Parkland. While we argue about guns, let's fix school security.

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*Let the gun debate play out over the long term. In the meantime let's act on what we agree on: hardening school security to keep our children safe.*

*(Photo: Pollack family photo)*

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The responsibility to protect our children in schools across America is something that requires the voice of every citizen. We can't do it alone, and we can't accomplish this task with political warfare occurring between us.

We can't let disagreement in the halls of our state legislatures, Congress, school boards, sidewalks or local communities divide us and prevent us from getting done the reforms we know we can agree on. We can fix the weaknesses in our schools' security with practical changes in the short term, while the more contentious issues surrounding firearm policy play out over the long term. There are basic, important and life-protecting policies we can enact right now to fix the problem of violence in our schools.

## A new Parkland school could be a Florida fortress

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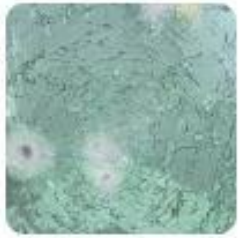
## Broward elementary school outfitted with bullet-resistant glass

WPLG Local 10 • today



## Father Of Student Killed In Parkland Shooting Discusses School Safety

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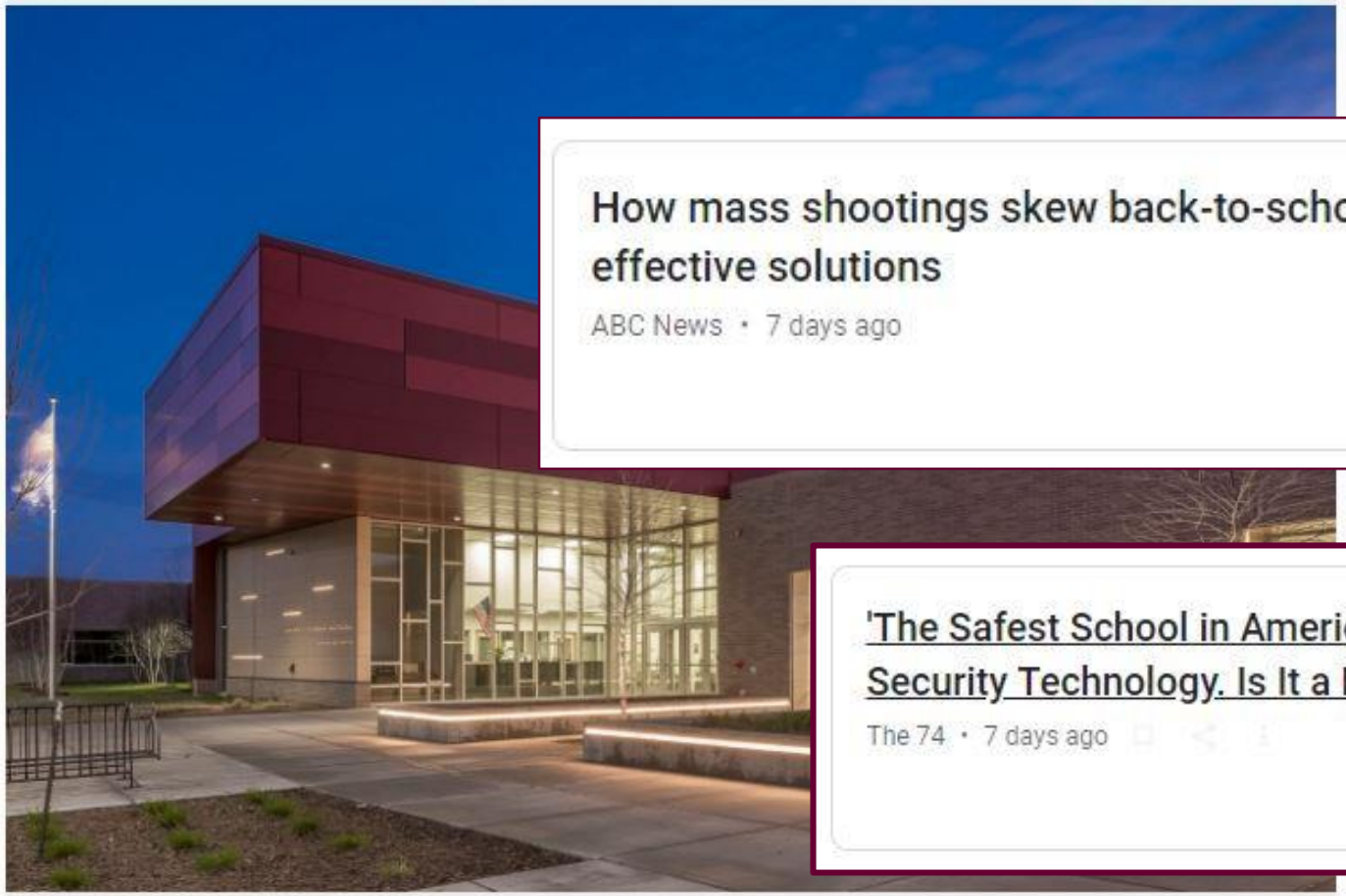
# Rethinking School Design in the Age of the Mass Shooter

BY ALISON STATEMAN AUGUST 12, 2018 1:39 PM

REPRINTS



A REIMAGINED MIDDLE SCHOOL. PHOTO: BRANDON STENGEL PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF DLR GROUP

How mass shootings skew back-to-school safety plans toward less-effective solutions

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'The Safest School in America' Deploys a Range of Sophisticated Security Technology. Is It a National Model?

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'We're Going To Need Resources': Parkland Cares Awards First Grants For Mental Health

WLRN • yesterday

Mental health counseling centers get private grant after Parkland shooting

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What Three Days With the Parkland Student Activists Taught Me

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# Lessons Learned in Parkland, Florida: Advocating for Improved Intergovernmental Coordination & Safer Schools

With Rep. Jared Moskowitz; Michele Mellgren, AICP; Carole Morris; and John J. Sullivan

State mulls school threat assessments | Local News

Moultrie Observer • today

School officials, lawmakers say they need more federal funding for school safety

LancasterOnline • 2 hours ago



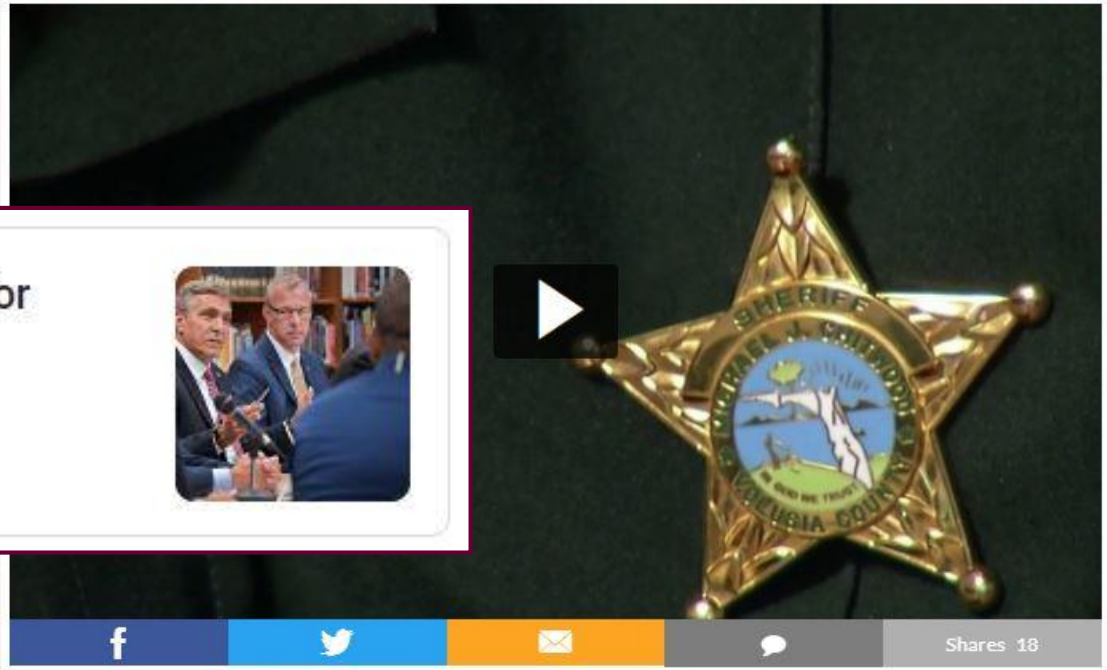
EDUCATION

# 'To avoid another Parkland,' Central Florida schools finalizing security plans

## 'There's going to be another school shooting,' Volusia County sheriff says

By Adrianna Iwasinski - Investigative Reporter

Posted: 6:00 AM, August 09, 2018
Updated: 10:59 AM, August 09, 2018

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**ORLANDO, Fla.** - Many Central Florida school districts are still finalizing school security plans ahead of the 2018-2019 school year. Some district officials said they are sticking with what they already had in place, while others are increasing their security measures because of the school shooting in Parkland where 17 students and faculty were killed in February.

Officials finishing installation of New Haven school security technology

Greenwich Time • today

Schools are taking new security measures after Parkland shooting

Axios • 3 days ago

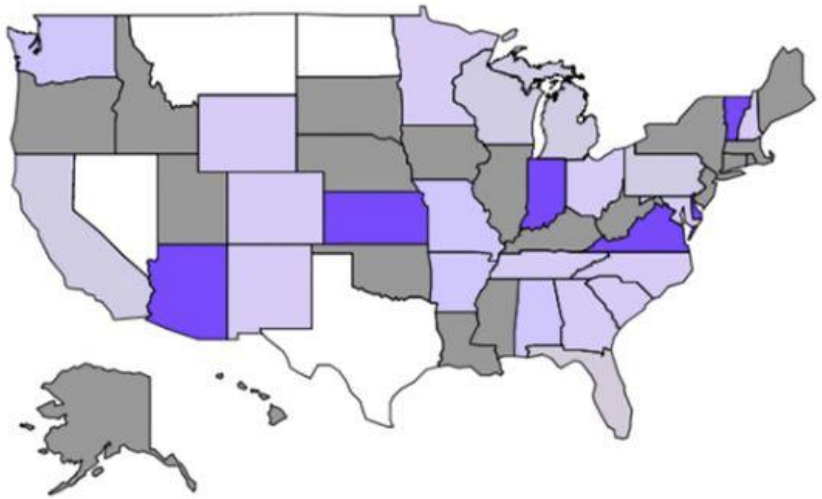
Major changes in store for Sarasota County school buildings

Sarasota Herald-Tribune • today

# How Much More Money Are States Spending on School Security After the Parkland Shooting?

By **CAROLYN PHENICIE** | August 20, 2018

**School Safety Spending Increases**



Following last winter's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the fallout was swift: The president quickly mused about arming teachers, students across the country walked out to call for greater gun control, and in the halls of state capitols across the country, lawmakers opened state pocketbooks.

Legislators in at least 26 states poured at least $950 million into school safety programs this year in the wake of the Parkland shooting and additional shootings in Maryland, Texas, and elsewhere.

## What the DeVos-Led School Safety Commission Did This Summer

Education Week • 5 days ago

### Balancing 'Hardened Schools,' Broader Security Approaches

While many school safety conversations since the Feb. 14 shooting in Parkland, Fla., have focused on "hardening schools" with physical security measures, keeping students safe requires a broader, multifaceted approach, several panelists told a federal school safety commission meeting Aug. 16.

Several panelists, who spoke on school policing, drills and protocols, building design, and threat assessment, also pushed for more centralized federal efforts to advance best practices and track what's happening in schools around the country.

The panel's latest meeting, held in Washington and coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security, was organized around the theme: "Creating a Citadel of Learning: New Tools to Secure our Schools, Inside and Out."

While the image of a citadel or a fortress is in keeping with Presid
to arm school staff and adopt more aggressive physical security m
the recommendations made by architects, educational leaders, ar
consultants, who say such extensive equipment can make schools
than places of learning.

It's possible to create safe schools that are still welcoming to students and conducive to learning and child development, architect Jay Brotman told the commission. He designed the new Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., which replaced a building that was demolished after 26 people where killed in a 2012 school shooting there.

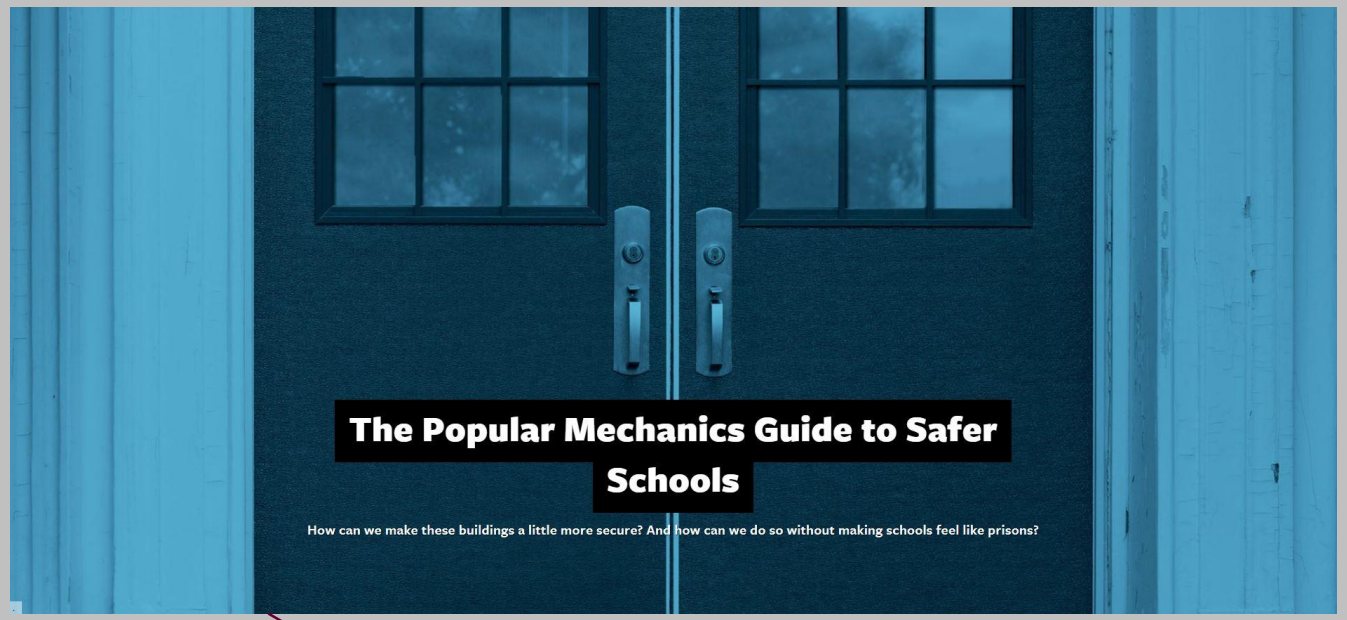
# Texas lieutenant governor calls for 'hardening' of schools

Nation May 20, 2018 11:52 AM EDT

# What exactly does 'hardening' schools mean?

## 'Hardening' schools being discussed in state Capitol after Parkland shooting

By Mike Vasilinda



# The Popular Mechanics Guide to Safer Schools

How can we make these buildings a little more secure? And how can we do so without making schools feel like prisons?

"Protecting schools is a particularly terrible and vexing problem. But Popular Mechanics has always been about solving problems. This is not a story about guns or rights or control. Those debates will take a log time to play out. There will be no legislative solution tomorrow or the next day or by the end of this school year. In the meantime, we decided to apply our expertise to the physical structure of schools—how can we make these buildings a little more secure? And how can we do so without making schools feel like prisons?"

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

| School District | **Baltimore County Public Schools**<br>Baltimore, Maryland | **Corpus Christi Independent Schools**<br>Corpus Christi, Texas | **Denville Township School District**<br>Denville, New Jersey |
|---|---|---|---|
| District Size | 107 elementary, 30 middle, 28 high, five specialty; 114,000 students | 37 elementary, 12 middle, eight high; 38,000 students | Two elementary, one middle; 1,500 students |
| Funding for Security | • $10 million over five years for new cameras; annual school budget also includes $800,000 for Department of School Safety.<br>• Baltimore County Police Department covers cost of all officers. | • About $3 million per year for 42-officer district police force.<br>• Requested $160,000 grant from governor for bully-prevention program. Other funding secured through bond sales, local taxes.<br>• Applying for federal matching grant from Stop School Violence Act for behavioral intervention and technology improvements. | • $163,600 for 2018–19 school year, taken from the standard school budget.<br>• $300,000 for construction of new security vestibules. |
| What They Spent It On | • Online emergency plans<br>• 19 drills a year for each school<br>• State-of-the-art digital cameras<br>• Buzz-in visitor entrance<br>• Raptor background check and visitor-management system<br>• Improved security vestibules<br>• School resource officers<br>• Additional psychologists and counselors<br>• ALICE active-shooter response training | • Building new schools that have more security-minded architecture, including fewer entrances, emergency exits that can only be opened from the inside, less sprawling floor plans<br>• Retrofitting old schools with security vestibules and removing modular classroom buildings<br>• School-counselor-led intervention team | • Community-wide strategic security plan<br>• Security vestibules in all three schools<br>• School resource officers<br>• Licensed clinical social worker<br>• LobbyGuard background check and visitor-management system<br>• Share911 emergency alert system<br>• ALICE active-shooter response training |

| | **Gresham School District**<br>Gresham, Wisconsin | **Jay School Corporation**<br>Portland, Indiana | **Marion City Schools**<br>Marion, Ohio |
|---|---|---|---|
| | One building, classified as two schools, K–5 and 6–12; 300 students | Five elementary, two middle, one high; 3,300 students | Six elementary, one middle, one high; 5,000 students |
| | • Spending about $174,000 on physical improvements, financed by redirecting funds from maintenance budget and working with local companies to pay security measures off over time.<br>• Applying for Wisconsin school safety grants. | • Spent $232,000 in the 2017–18 school year.<br>• Received 50% matching grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for school resource officer salaries. | • Spent $3 million in last four years, budgeted $3 million over next three years. |
| | • Security cameras<br>• Secure front entrance<br>• ALICE active-shooter response training<br>• Part-time school resource officer | • 3M shatterproof glass film for windows<br>• School resource officers<br>• NetTalon military-grade steel doors and windows<br>• Interior school doors with ballistic-resistant windows | • Safer Schools Ohio Tipline<br>• MARCS multi-agency radios<br>• School resource officers<br>• Third-party safety audit<br>• Mental-health counselors<br>• 3M shatterproof glass film on all building entrances<br>• Raptor background check and visitor-management system |

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