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Our Story

Safe and Sound Schools is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving school safety across the United States through school crisis prevention, response, and recovery.

Founded in May 2013, following the Sandy Hook School tragedy, Safe and Sound Schools began as a collaboration between Sandy Hook parents, families, teachers, first responders, and community members to ensure the safety of the nation’s schools. The organization has always – and only – focused on school safety.

Today, Safe and Sound Schools is a recognized leader in school safety, and provides research-based education, tools, and resources to ensure the safest possible learning environment for students.

Our Mission

To support school crisis prevention, response, and recovery, and to protect every school and every student, every day.

Our Philosophy

Empowerment through Education and Connection:

By increasing awareness, providing free educational materials, tools, and programs, and connecting individuals and communities to the resources they need, Safe and Sound Schools empowers communities to improve and maintain school safety. Safe and Sound Schools conducts ongoing research into school safety to offer thoughtful solutions and a platform for information gathering and sharing, designed to facilitate local and national partnerships between families, educators, first responders, and safety and security experts.

Our Approach

School Safety Simplified:

Safe and Sound Schools teaches “Straight-A-School Safety Improvement,” a model that encourages school communities to actively engage in the school safety process. Through the basic steps of this continuum – Assess, Act and Audit – Safe and Sound educates and involves all community members. The organization provides free toolkits and programs to support each step with easily understood information, activities and ideas to educate, engage community members, and sustain long-term commitment to the safety of the school community. Safe and Sound Schools gathers and provides the organizational and informational resources communities need to address their unique school safety issues.
Since founding Safe and Sound Schools with Alissa Parker in 2013, Michele Gay has worked to develop and establish Safe and Sound Schools as a national school safety resource center. Michele travels across the country sharing her message of inspiration, recovery, and school safety education and advocacy. She conducts school safety workshops and seminars, presenting Safe and Sound’s school safety model and resources and facilitating school safety development in communities across the country. She has authored and co-authored numerous Safe and Sound resources and publications, as well as several professional and industry articles, and is a nationally-recognized speaker and advocate for school safety.

As Safe and Sound Schools’ Executive Director, Michele oversees all operational activities, including fundraising, corporate sponsorship, research, and resource development. Michele collaborates and consults with school districts and safety professionals nationwide in her work with Safe and Sound Schools. She is also a nationally-recognized expert, providing commentary for major media outlets.

Since launching the foundation, Michele has spoken at hundreds of engagements across the country, including the National Association of School Resource Officers’ Annual Conference, FEMA PrepTalks, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency’s School Safety Conference, and the National Association of School Psychologists’ Conference. Recently, she was honored with the “Champion of Life” award by The BFG Community Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland, for her work as a school safety advocate with Safe and Sound Schools.

In addition to her work with Safe and Sound Schools, Michele works to support families with autistic children through “Joey’s Fund” of the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, a granting program she and her husband established in honor of their daughter, Josephine Gay. Michele and her husband Bob are also recipients of the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism’s “Shining Star Award,” an award that recognizes their dedication and commitment to supporting families with Autism.

Prior to founding Safe and Sound Schools, Michele taught in the Maryland and Virginia Public Schools, where she served as both a mentor, teacher and a peer coach. She was recognized “Exemplary Teacher” in the Fairfax County Public Schools. Michele holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Towson University and a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from McDaniel College. Her education, professional, and personal experiences have uniquely positioned her to advocate on the national level for safer schools.
Alissa Parker is the mother of Emilie Parker, one of the 20 children lost in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on December 14, 2012. Following the tragedy, Alissa collaborated with fellow Sandy Hook mother, Michele Gay, to found Safe and Sound Schools. She currently serves as a board member and director of Safe and Sound Schools. Alissa facilitates the development of new materials and website content for the foundation, and conducts speaking engagements and interviews upon request. She is also recognized nationally as an advocate for school safety.

In addition to her work with Safe and Sound Schools, Alissa and her husband founded the Emilie Parker Art Connection to honor their daughter’s love of art. The organization strives to share Emilie’s love of art with other children through supporting art programs in communities. Alissa served as a member of the Newtown Public Schools’ Safety Committee prior to moving to the West Coast with her family. As a member of the committee, she lent her parent’s perspective and participated in discussions about school safety plans as well as the construction of the new Sandy Hook Elementary School and began her work as a school safety advocate.

In her travels and visits to school communities across the country, she has found that many school communities want to improve the safety of their schools, but simply do not know where to start. She delivers a message of education, empowerment, and collaboration to each community she visits. Alissa believes that the power to make meaningful changes in school safety is in collaboration. “When all parties involved work together, it is inspiring to see the amazing results. There is so much to be learned from each other and our different perspectives.”

Alissa graduated from Weber State University in her hometown of Ogden, Utah. She is the author of the book, An Unseen Angel, a memoir of faith, hope and healing. Alissa brings a powerful perspective and passion to Safe and Sound Schools. She is devoted to creating a legacy of safety for our nation’s children in honor of her beloved Emilie.
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<th><strong>Company Type</strong></th>
<th>Public charity – Tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Tax ID 46-2723169</th>
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| **Founders**     | Michele Gay, mother of Josephine Gay  
                      Alissa Parker, mother of Emilie Parker                                                      |
| **Address**      | Safe and Sound Schools  
                      P.O. Box 173  
                      Newtown, CT 06470                                                                                |
| **Media Inquiries** | Amy Shanler  
                      ashanler@safeandsoundschools.org                                                                 |
| **Online Channels** | Website: [www.safeandsoundschools.org](http://www.safeandsoundschools.org)  
                      Facebook: Safe and Sound Schools  
                      Twitter: @SafeSchoolsOrg  
                      LinkedIn: Safe and Sound Schools  
                      Instagram: safeandsoundschools                                                                 |
<p>| <strong>Fundraising</strong>  | Safe and Sound Schools is a non-stock corporation formed under Connecticut law and registered with Connecticut to solicit charitable donations. Safe and Sound Schools is recognized as a tax-exempt entity described in Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code by the IRS. Safe and Sound Schools is supported by foundations, corporations, individuals, and third-party events, and had a FY2017 annual operating budget of $470,000. |</p>
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<td>• Presented to more than 150,000 school safety stakeholders in 230 cities</td>
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<td>• More than 2,500 Straight-A Safety Toolkits downloaded in the U.S., representing 1,540 unique school districts, potentially reaching 5 million students across all 50 states</td>
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<td>• Our toolkits have been viewed by more than 19,000 individuals, with more than 3,000 leads generated from downloads, a conversion rate of almost 18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Worldwide, our Straight-A Safety Toolkits have been downloaded in 133 countries</td>
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<td>• More than 250 Safe and Sound Youth Council downloads from students</td>
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<td>Safe and Sound Schools is led by executive director Michele Gay, co-founder Alissa Parker, and a team of volunteers, educators, child development specialists, and professional advisors. The operational staff members include four part-time staff members that serve the organization’s public relations, technical, and administrative needs.</td>
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PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Straight-A-Safety Improvement Toolkits
A way to rethink school safety, Straight-A-Safety Improvement teaches three active phases: Assess, Act, and Audit. Based upon this model, the program toolkits support each step of the process with engaging teaching tools and resources, designed to support busy school & safety professionals and community members.

Safe and Sound Institute
The Safe and Sound Institute for school safety presents regional summits, workshops, trainings, and webinars with national level experts to actively engage and connect all stakeholders in the process of improving school safety. It connects stakeholders, builds common language, and sets the foundation for collaborative work. The Safe and Sound Institute brings live-learning and web-based opportunities to school and safety professionals and community members for greater impact on the safety of all students, staff, and community members.

Parents for Safe Schools
Parents for Safe Schools is a program that supports parents who want to make a difference in the safety of their child’s school. The program provides ideas, resources, and projects to help parents organize, communicate, and collaborate with their school communities to initiate and sustain discussion, foster awareness, design and complete safety projects, build partnerships with other stakeholders, and serve as advocates for safe learning environments.

Safe and Sound Youth Council
A nationwide network of motivated students who share a passion to provide safer and more secure schools for one another, their educators, and their communities. Safe and Sound Schools provides a free program guide to help interested students organize, launch, and sustain a chapter at their school and a menu of project ideas to make a difference.

Resource Library & Inspiring Ideas
Safe and Sound Schools maintains a robust, free catalog of other organizations and tools available to help people within the community fill specific needs. In addition, the organization provides stories of success to serve as inspiration to other schools, and to motivate them to take the first step toward improving the safety of their schools.
Safe and Sound Schools Post Crisis Response Network

Safe and Sound Schools has a strong national network comprised of: school crisis victims, families, and survivors; professionals in mental health, education, law enforcement, and fire and rescue professionals; and partnering non-profit organizations. The organization’s Post Crisis Response Network is available to visit and provide post-crisis support to communities in need. This program is funded by the generosity of individuals, corporate partners, and non-profit organizations to support school communities as needed and at no cost.

State of School Safety Report

As a leading school safety organization, Safe and Sound Schools has published primary research summarizing perceptions of school safety among parents of students, students in middle and high school, educators and education professionals, and the general public in the State of School Safety report.

Speakers: Keynotes & Workshops

Safe and Sound’s panel of school safety experts combine deep practical knowledge with engaging delivery to inspire and educate school communities. They deliver keynotes, hands-on workshops and community-wide forums, adapted to meet the unique needs of any event. The speaking team can deliver content on a variety of topics related to school safety, crisis prevention, response, recovery, and mental health.
Safe and Sound Schools works with the following groups to succeed in our mission:

- Bright Futures
- Campus Safety Magazine
- Charlotte Helen Bacon Foundation (Sandy Hook Family)
- Crime Stoppers of Houston
- FEMA
- I Love U Guys Foundation
- Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement (Sandy Hook Family)
- Koshka Foundation
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of School Resource Officers
- National Resilience Institute
- Partner Alliance for Safe Schools
- Safe Havens
- Save the Children
- Secure Schools Alliance
- Wisconsin Chiefs of Police
ADVISORS & CONTRIBUTORS

- **MARK K. BAILEY**, MEd., EMT-P, Fire Chief, Fort Thomas Fire Department, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky


- **STEPHEN E. BROCK**, Ph.D., Licensed Educational Psychologist, Nationally Certified School Psychologist, Author PREPaRE: Crisis Intervention and Recovery, Lead Editor Best Practices in School Crisis Prevention and Intervention, Professor and School Psychology Program Coordinator, Graduate and Processional Studies in Education, California State University, Sacramento, California

- **MO CANADY**, Executive Director, National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), Hoover, Alabama

- **FRANK DEANGELIS**, Retired Principal, Columbine High School, Special Advisor for Education Leadership to Safe and Sound Schools, Consultant for Safety and Emergency Management for the Jefferson County Schools, Colorado High Principal of the Year, Finalist, National Principal of the Year, Denver, Colorado

- **MICHAEL DORN**, Executive Director, Safe Havens International, Macon, Georgia

- **C.J. HUFF**, Ed.D., Retired superintendent, Joplin, Missouri, Special Advisor for Education and Community Leadership to Safe and Sound Schools, Founder, Bright Futures USA, Expert: U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Healthy Students, Expert: Missouri Center for Education Safety, Senior Advisor for Education to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for Hurricane Harvey Recovery, Joplin, Missouri

- **PAUL HILDRETH**, MBA, CEM, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Fulton County Schools, College Park, Georgia

- **JIN KIM**, FBI (ret) Active Shooter Subject Matter Expert & Practitioner, FBI/ALERRT & CRASE Tactical Instructor, Law Enforcement Tactical Resolution Trainer, FBI (ret) SWAT Operator and Observer/Sniper, Founder & Principal of the PerSec Academy, LLC.

- **AMY KLINGER**, Ed.D., Director of Programs, The Educator’s School Safety Network, Author: FEMA/DHS Crisis Management for School-based Incidents for Key Decision Makers (online course), Author: Moving Beyond Lockdown: Lockdown Alternatives and Enhancements for Active Shooter Response in Schools (online course), National School Safety Lecturer and Consultant, Associate Professor of Educational Administration, Ashland University, Public Education Teacher and Administrator of 28 years

- **RANIA MANKARIOUS**, J.D., Chief Executive Officer, Crime Stoppers of Houston, Special Advisor for Non-profit development for Safe and Sound Schools, Houston, Texas
• **WILLIAM MODZELESKI**, Former Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, Co-Author: The Safe School Initiative, Co-Author: Threat Assessment In Schools, Co-Author: School Associated Violent Deaths in the U.S., National School Safety Expert, Author, Lecturer

• **SHARI NACSON**, LISW-S, Child Development Consultant, Clinical Social Worker, Adult Educator, Editor, Cleveland Heights, OH

• **SCOTT POLAND**, Licensed Psychologist, Nationally Certified School Psychologist, Author: Coping with Crisis, Professor, The Center for Psychological Studies, Nova Southeastern University, Hollywood, Florida

• **KEVIN QUINN**, School Resource Officer, Chandler Police Department, Arizona, Past President: National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), President: Arizona School Resource Officers Association (ASROA), Chandler, AZ

• **MELISSA REEVES**, Ph.D., Nationally Certified School Psychologist, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Special Education Teacher, Co-Author: PREPARE: Crisis Prevention and Preparedness, Co-Author: Identifying, Assessing, and Treating PTSD at School, Co-Author: Comprehensive Planning for Safe Learning Environments, Lecturer, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina

• **STEPHEN C. SATTERLY, JR.**, Director of Transportation and School Safety, CSC Southern Hancock County, Certified Indiana School Safety Specialist, Co-Author: Staying Alive: How to Act Fast and Survive Deadly Encounters, School Safety Practitioner, Presenter, Expert Witness, Speedway, Indiana

• **JACLYN SCHILDKRAUT**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Public Justice, State University of New York at Oswego, Co-Author: Mass Shootings: Media, Myths, and Realities, National author & expert on school/mass shootings (e.g., The Wall Street Journal, WORLD Magazine, Popular Science, NPR, Syracuse Post-Standard), Oswego, New York

MEDIA ASSETS

Access to Experts

Safe and Sound Schools can provide experts/spokespeople on the following topics:

- General School Safety and Security
- Parent and School Staff Perspectives
- Recovery and Reunification
- School Violence - Preparation, Lessons, Recovery
- Bullying and School Safety
- Mental Wellness and School Safety
- Crisis Prevention and Intervention

Multimedia

Images:
Safe and Sound Schools has high-resolution images of the founders working with schools and communities across the country, as well as some personal photos of their families that inspire their work.

Video:
Safe and Sound has select video clips available of our expert speakers at various events, as well as general b-roll showing some simple school safety interactions and improvements. Please reach out to ashanler@safeandsoundschools.org for photos and videos.

Statistics:
Through our network of school safety experts, we can provide you with credible third-party statistics to help your editorial coverage. For example:

**ACCORDING TO THE CDC, IN 2016, NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAD A WRITTEN PLAN FOR RESPONDING TO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, AND OF THOSE, 70 PERCENT HAD RUN DRILLS FOR STUDENTS.**
National Center for Education Statistics

**OF ALL YOUTH HOMICIDES, LESS THAN 2.6% OCCUR AT SCHOOL, AND THIS PERCENTAGE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY STABLE FOR THE PAST DECADE.**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**70.6% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THEY HAVE SEEN BULLYING IN THEIR SCHOOLS.**
stopbullying.gov
MILESTONES

2013
Founded Safe and Sound Schools in May on CBS This Morning, receiving an overwhelming outpouring of support from individuals and communities across the country. Visited over 10 communities by year end. Unveiled The Straight A Safety Toolkits and the Safe and Sound blog, and established a national network of experts and guest bloggers. Welcomed NaviGate Prepared as the first corporate partner.

2014
Expanded The Straight A Safety Toolkits and visited more than 20 communities. Collected and curated “Inspiring Ideas.” Welcomed ASSA ABLOY as a platinum level partner. Worked with the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) to develop “Best Practices and Considerations for Schools in Active Shooter and Other Armed Assailant Drills.”

2015
Won the 2015 SBANE New England Innovation Award for Nonprofits. Visited more than 35 communities. Sparked discussion on college campuses with lectures at SUNY Oswego and Boston University. Launched #GivingTuesday #ChangeForSchoolSafety campaign. Welcomed Raptor Technologies as Legacy level partner. Expanded expert team of Advisors and Contributors.

Presented at industry events such as the Campus Safety Conference and the Massachusetts Women in Law Enforcement Conference, and the National Association of School Psychologists Conference. Led workshops with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Launched the “Shine a Light on School Safety” crowdsourcing campaign and #ChangeForSchoolSafety #GivingTuesday initiatives, raising more than $8,500 in grassroots donations. Created online discussions with the #100DaysOfSafety education campaign. Launched the Safe and Sound Speaker’s Bureau, increasing the number of expert speakers and workshop/presentation topics and offerings. Won additional grants and sponsorship from Staples Foundation, Big Y, and Status Solutions. By the end of 2016, Safe and Sound Schools brought its programs, tools, and resources to 40 states.

2016
MILESTONES CONTINUED

2017


2018

Expanded organizational reach through program adoption, speaking engagements, and marketing strength to reach all 50 U.S. states, and see toolkit downloads in 133 countries. To date in 2018, Safe and Sound Schools has visited 230 cities, including presentations to the National PTA Legislative Conference, Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, the Arkansas Mental Health in Education Association, the 15th Annual Safe Schools Initiative Seminar, and the Maryland School Safety Initiative. In addition, Safe and Sound Schools supported and provided the guidance for the development of the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 and issued the first “State of School Safety” report to help school communities better tackle the myriad challenges of school safety. The organization launched new fundraising initiatives with Jammin Hammer Jewelry, Alice’s Teacup, and H&H Medical.
Michele Gay and Alissa Parker have spoken at a variety of industry leadership events. A selection of their speaking events follows below. Past presentations have included keynote addresses, workshops, seminars, and panel discussions.

**Select events include:**

- Axis School Safety Summits
- Campus Safety
- Crime Stoppers, Houston
- FOSI Safety Policy Conference
- Governor’s Safety and Health Conference and Exposition
- IMF Women’s Security Awareness Training
- Independent School Safety & Security Summit
- MA Association of Superintendents
- MA InterScholastic Athletic Association
- MA Juvenile Police Officers Association
- MASBO/CASBO Annual Institute Conf.
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)
- National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers (NASSLEO).
- National Center for Citizen Safety
- National Parent Teacher Association
- National Resilience Institute
- Networking Partners in Prevention
- New Mexico Safe Schools Summit
- Pennsylvania School Nurses Association
- Safe Schools Symposium, PA
- School Administrators Emergency Training Summit, WA
- Security 100 Tucson, AZ
- Strategy Institute of Canada
- VA Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) PrepTalk
“MICHELE GAY’S VISION, INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION, AND STRONG LEADERSHIP HAVE TAKEN SAFE AND SOUND SCHOOLS FROM IDEA TO ACTION AND CHANGED THE WAY MANY VIEW SCHOOL SAFETY...SAFE AND SOUND WILL EMPOWER COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO RECLAIM THE SAFETY OF THEIR SCHOOLS.”
– Gavin deBecker, Best-selling author of “The Gift of Fear” and renowned Violence Prevention Expert

“[SAFE AND SOUND] HAS ALREADY HELPED HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL COMMUNITIES, ENSURING THAT SCHOOLS HAVE COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY AND CRISIS PLANS...THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR THIS FOUNDATION AND OUR SCHOOLS ARE SAFER BECAUSE OF THE WORK THAT THEY DO.”
– Dr. Melissa Reeves and Dr. Stephen Brock, President Elect and Past President of the National Association of School Psychologists

“WE HAD MICHELE GAY SPEAK AT OUR SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT TO AN AUDIENCE OF OUR DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP. [SHE] DELIVERED A MESSAGE...FROM HER HEART AS A MOM BUT, ALSO AS A FELLOW EDUCATOR. MICHELE’S MESSAGE WAS BOTH INSPIRATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL IN PROVIDING OUR SCHOOLS WITH GREAT IDEAS THAT THEY COULD TAKE BACK TO THEIR SCHOOL AND IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATELY.”
– Paul Hildreth, Safety and Security, Fulton County Schools, Georgia

“MICHELE’S PRESENTATION WAS EYE-OPENING...HEARING HER STORY ON HOW EVENTS TRULY UNFOLDED REALLY PUTS A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON SCHOOL SAFETY. IT SHOWS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR ALL LEVELS...FROM PRINCIPALS DOWN TO...TEACHERS TO BE [READY] FOR EMERGENCY.”
– Jamia McDonald, Executive Director, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency

“SAFE AND SOUND IS A REMARKABLE ORGANIZATION WITH AN INCREDIBLE MISSION TO INFORM, EDUCATE AND DELIVER CRITICAL SCHOOL SAFETY KNOWLEDGE TO SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL COMMUNITIES.”
– Jim Hummel, COO, Lauren Innovations/NaviGate Prepared
Q: How does Safe and Sound Schools make a difference in school safety?

Safe and Sound Schools brings expert-backed crisis prevention, response, and recovery programs, resources and tools to schools nationwide. We have reached school communities in every state in the country, and connect with all stakeholders, from administrators, teachers, and staff, to law enforcement, public safety officials, and government leaders, to parents, students, and the general public. We have seen an increased demand for our time, resources, and expertise, and have steady growth of visitors to our website. As we talk with school communities throughout the country, they are grateful for the free resources and toolkits we provide, as they fill a necessary gap in inherent expertise. We are the only national non-profit organization focused on a comprehensive approach to school safety.

Q: What resources are available for schools?

Safe and Sound Schools provides free resources, toolkits, and programs, all expert-backed, to help schools address their safety needs. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to school safety, so our programs are customizable to meet the unique needs of each school community. We offer the Straight-A-Safety Improvement Toolkits to facilitate the work of school safety teams and leaders, the Safe and Sound Youth Council for students, Parents for Safe Schools to engage and guide parents in school safety, a crisis response network, and a library of resources and ideas already at work in other school communities, to name just a few examples.

Q: Who’s responsibility is it to keep schools safe?

School safety isn’t one person’s job, it is everybody’s job. Safe and Sound Schools helps administrators, principals, teachers, behavioral health experts, staff, students, parents, first responders, public safety officials, and general community members on ways they can all play a role in school safety.

Q: Is Safe and Sound Schools a non-profit organization?

Safe and Sound Schools is a non-stock corporation formed under Connecticut law and registered with Connecticut to solicit charitable donations. It is recognized as a tax-exempt entity, as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code by the IRS. Safe and Sound Schools is not a grant-making organization.

Q: Is Safe and Sound Schools associated with the Sandy Hook Promise Organization?

No. Safe and Sound Schools is not affiliated with Sandy Hook Promise or represented by the Sandy Hook Promise Organization, nor does it receive funding from the organization.
Q: Does Safe and Sound Schools take a position on gun control?

No, we do not. We choose to focus on keeping children safe in schools by empowering school communities to improve their safety and security practices, plans, and measures. We believe this is the most effective and immediate way to keep schools safe amidst the changing landscape of school safety today.

Q: Are you safety and security “experts” at Safe and Sound Schools?

Safe and Sound Schools’ mission is to bring the expertise and science of the nation’s security and safety professionals, leaders, innovators, and school community members to communities across the nation. Safe and Sound Schools relies on a growing list of experts for content, ideas, and the latest research. Check out the list of advisors and resources on the Safe and Sound Schools’ website to see some of the experts, organizations, publications, websites and webinars that have helped the organization.

Q: Does Safe and Sound Schools have a political agenda?

No, we are a grassroots organization with no political ties or obligations. Safe and Sound is committed to a nonpartisan approach to school safety. To make the greatest impact upon school security and safety issues, we look to engage all local and national community members in active problem solving together. School security and safety is everyone’s prerogative.

Q: Does Safe and Sound Schools have a position on arming school staff?

We advocate for the presence of sworn law enforcement officers in the school community, specifically school resource officers. Their specific training allows them to best serve as a safety resource to staff and students, build proactive relationships within the community, and carry a firearm and/or other tools to provide protection and intervention when necessary. While it is expensive and time intensive to train civilian staff members to safely carry and use a firearm in the same capacity, factors such as geography, man-power, and local resources have forced some school communities to explore other options. Further, the culture, climate, and values of each school community are unique and important considerations. For these reasons, we believe that the decision to arm school personnel—or not—must reside at the local level and include representation from a variety of community perspectives and professional disciplines.
Q: Does Safe and Sound Schools have a position on security guards and/or police officers in schools?

We advocate for highly specific preparations, plans, and measures tailored to the safety and security needs of each school building and community. Security guards and police officers are one possible measure schools can put in place to improve safety. At Safe and Sound, we advocate for multiple layers of protection in order to best secure the safety of your school community.

Further, a thoughtful, professional safety assessment within one community may warrant the employment of security guards or police officers, while it may not be warranted or practical in another community. This decision belongs to each individual school community and will depend on the needs, budget, and desires of that community.
SAFE AND SOUND SCHOOLS
Empowering a Nation of Safer School Communities
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