

Position Statement on Assault-Style Lethal Weapons and Firearms

Safety in Tennessee schools is a critical priority for all parents, educators, students, and community members that cannot be taken for granted. We must make every attempt to reduce violence – especially incidents that involve firearms and weapons considered lethal.

Tennessee PTA Board of Managers support state or federal legislation that would:

- Prohibit the possession of firearms and other lethal weapons on school campuses except by authorized law enforcement and public safety personnel;
- Restrict sale and possession of assault weapons for non-military/non-law enforcement use and implement a registration process for those persons who now legally own such firearms;
- Mandate safety devices, including childproof trigger locks, on all firearms offered for sale, delivery or transfer;
- Prohibit armor-piercing and non-sporting ammunition in high-capacity magazines;
- Require a firearms licensing procedure that institutes a waiting period and background check to screen out illegal firearm purchasers such as convicted felons and drug offenders;
- Require a firearms licensing procedure that includes proof of passing a state-certified course in appropriate firearms use and safe firearm handling practices.

Tennessee PTA Board of Managers further support:

- Education and public awareness campaigns that emphasize the importance of firearm safety;
- Education and public awareness campaigns that inform about the harm and injury that gun violence inflicts on children and youth.

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