

Gun Violence Resolution
By the
Council of the Great City Schools

Whereas, the Council of the Great City Schools, shares the horror and dread felt as a result of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut; and

Whereas, our urban communities must bear witness to the tens of thousands of school-aged victims who are killed or injured in shootings each year; and

Whereas, the proliferation of guns and gun-related violence in the United States has continued for far too long; and

Whereas, the repeated occurrence of violent events in a variety of venues makes it clear that this not merely a school security issue, but a community issue; and

Whereas, families and children in urban, rural, suburban, and every school location deserve the assurance and satisfaction of knowing that students are in a safe learning environment;

Be It Therefore Resolved That, the Council of the Great City Schools calls for immediate changes that will help ensure students across the country are safe in their schools, classrooms, and communities, including –

1. Supporting community improvement solutions such as wraparound services that provide sufficient access to those who need assistance, including schoolchildren;
2. Providing additional support in communities and schools for mental health and substance abuse treatment and counseling;
3. Enhancing and evaluating bullying-prevention programs, anti-gang initiatives, and positive behavior support programs;
4. Tightening the rating systems on movies, games, and other forms of entertainment that depict violence;
5. Banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines or clips;
6. Requiring any individual purchasing a gun to pass a background check regardless of the location or nature of the sale;
7. Enforcing the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Act of 2007, that expands persons included in the national background-check database to those with adjudicated mental health conditions, civil protection orders, arrest warrants, etc.;

8. Removing barriers that prohibit law enforcement from tracking the purchase and use of guns, including those used in crimes;
9. Requiring that school security plans are reviewed and updated annually, with input from local law enforcement;
10. Ensuring that local school authorities retain the authority and discretion to use, equip, train, and deploy security officers in schools;
11. Ensuring that principals have adequate training to maintain a safe and secure school environment, with cooperation from and in partnership with local law enforcement; and
12. Requiring the national database on violence to include any incidents involving a gun or shooting.

Approved by the Board of Directors
Council of the Great City Schools
March 10, 2013
Washington, D.C.