

Lou Pepe



delivering the message



New Jersey School Boards Association

## School Boards Guide to Safer Schools in New Jersey

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Assistant Superintendent,  
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City of Summit Public Schools

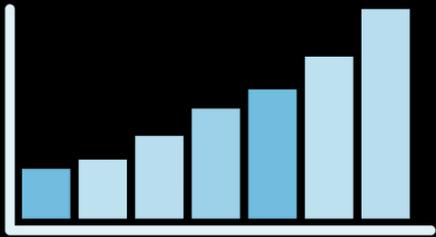
*Making Smarter Decisions  
That Impact The Safety of our Schools*

Create a culture of safety in your  
school's leadership

# When it comes to safety and security

*“You need to listen like your life depends on it; your job just might, or the lives of others.”*

– SMARTER DECISION-MAKING AVOIDING POOR DECISIONS THROUGH EFFECTIVE LISTENING



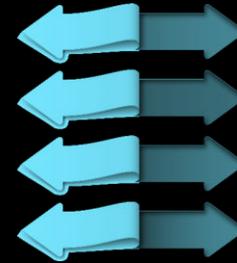
## Ongoing Concern

School Shootings have increased in both **frequency** and **severity**



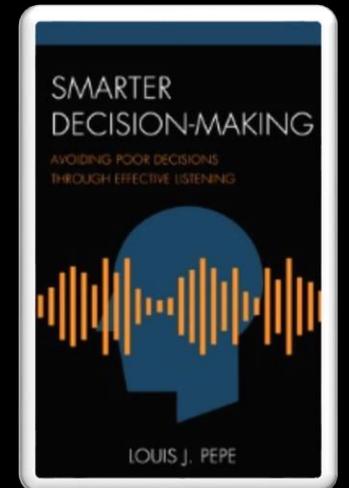
## Call To Action (CTA)

“If you see something, say something.”  
US Department of Homeland Security



## Behind the Numbers

A look into school shootings statistics for 2018  
EDUCATION WEEK NEWS JOURNAL



# Behind the Numbers

## 2018 TOTALS



## WHERE THE SHOOTINGS HAPPENED

January 8, 2020

EDUCATION WEEK

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<https://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/the-school-shootings-of-2018-whats-behind.html>

# Facts About School Shootings

01

School shootings happened in communities all over the United States in schools and districts of varying sizes.

02

Most were not mass shootings like what took place in Parkland, Fla., and Santa Fe, Texas.

03

How shootings of all sizes affect students and staff who aren't injured or killed—through exposure to trauma—is often overlooked.

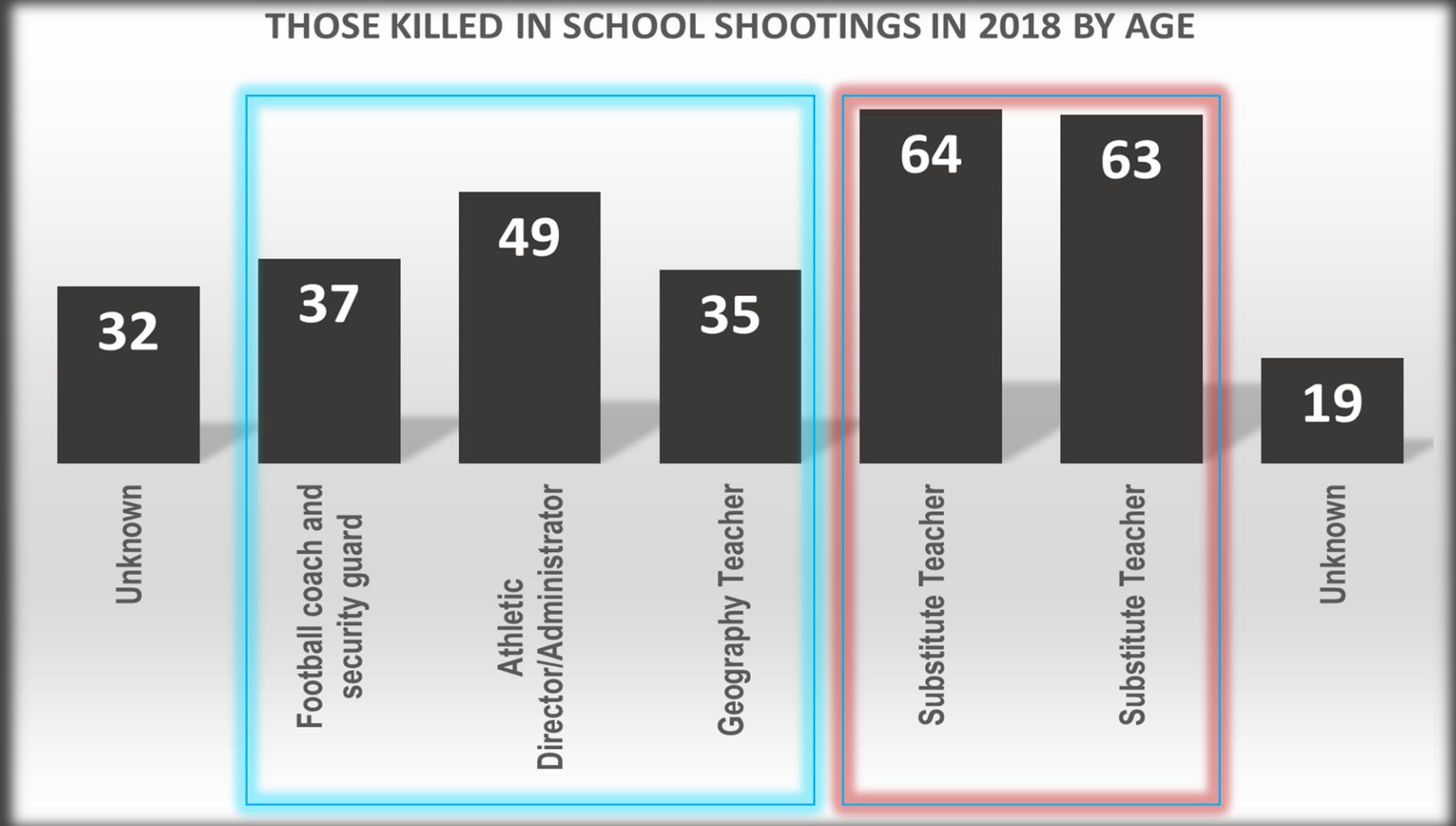
04

Schools are responsible for the safety of students outside the school day and outside the school building – including sporting events.

# School Shootings – Impact Beyond Students

Marjory Stoneman  
Douglas

Santa Fe High School



SOURCE: News reports; *Education Week* reporting

# Responsibility Facts

01

Schools are responsible for the safety of students, staff and visitors

02

This extends outside the traditional school day and outside the school building – including sporting events

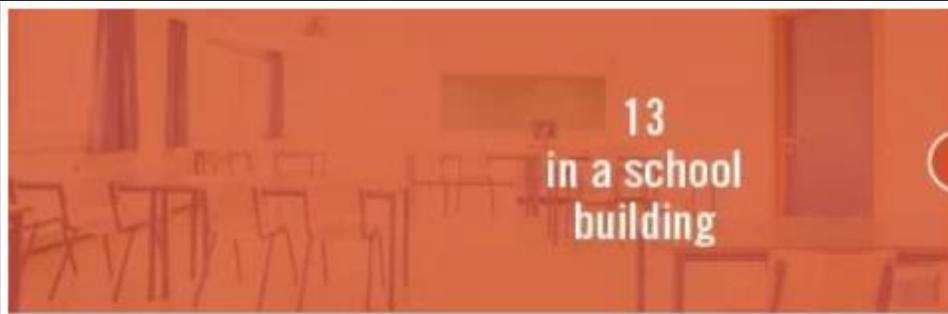
03

That responsibility includes athletic fields, playgrounds and drop-off/pick-up areas

10 years. 180 school shootings. 356 victims.



# TIMES AND PLACES INCIDENTS OCCURRED



2  
Elementary Schools



4  
Middle Schools



18  
High Schools

# How do we address this responsibility?

- Limit the number of entry points.
- Utilize technology integration for keyless entry.
- Exterior mechanical equipment and other utility enclosures should be locked at all times.
- Restrict roof access by eliminating any potential climbing points. Secure any roof hatches.
- Basement windows should be protected with security screens or window well covers.
- Place trash containers and dumpsters away from buildings.

Exterior Measures

Site Based Activities

Building Envelope Security

Interior Measures

# How do we address this responsibility?

- Ensure clear sight lines through maintenance of buildings, landscaping features and lighting.
- Trim trees and shrubbery to eliminate hiding places and provide clear lines of sight.
- Provide fencing that limits access while allowing proper egress. Fence off areas that may create niches and blind spots.
- Ensure “outbuildings” such as field houses and modular units have adequate fencing and connections to main buildings.
- Site lighting should be uniform, and eliminate shadows or glare. Lighting should enhance visibility, discourage trespassing, and prevent school vandalism.

Exterior Measures

Site Based Activities

Building Envelope Security

Interior Measures

# How do we address this responsibility?

- Traffic control devices such as stop signs and speed bumps or dips. Intentional or accidental high speed vehicle approaches can be deterred by bollards and concrete planters or earth berms.
- Ensure that buses can drop-off and pick-up students directly from a designated, marked loading/unloading zone near a supervised entrance.
- Ensure parent drop-off and pick-up zones are clearly designated and separated from bus traffic.
- Ensure visitor, student and staff parking is clearly marked and if possible separated.
- Designate parking spaces for faculty, staff and students and require parking decals to easily identify unauthorized vehicles.
- Maintain space for emergency vehicle access and evacuation for building play areas and fields.

Exterior Measures

Site Based Activities

Building Envelope Security

Interior Measures

# How do we address this responsibility?

- Relocating Fire alarm pull stations so they are not in the secure vestibules.
- Install ballistic or shatter resistant glass during construction or renovation projects.
- Install ballistic or shatter resistant film to existing windows that are considered vulnerable, often entry or first floor areas.
- Consider lanyard type visitor passes versus stickers which tend to fall off.
- Store visitor passes behind counters and consider ways to ensure they are returned or voided upon sign out or expiration.
- After school programs use by the community in such areas as gyms, auditoriums or meeting rooms should be gated off from hallways and other parts of the building.

Exterior Measures

Site Based Activities

Building Envelope Security

Interior Measures

# Start with assessments

## *Site Assessments*



### *Internal*

Classrooms/Hallways/common areas

### *External*

Grounds/Fields/Parking lots

## *Site Reviews*



*Emergency Management Plans*

*Contact Numbers*

*Evacuation Sites*

*Reunification Sites/Agreements*

## *Training Assessments*



*Test effectiveness of  
current drills: lockdown,  
shelter & evacuation*

By applying ***realistic assessments*** and ***testing the effectiveness*** of our response to current drills we begin to improve and address our vulnerabilities and weaknesses

Lockdown drills: How to balance safety and stress

Under pressure to tighten security, K-12 leaders also work to reduce trauma

By: [Matt Zalaznick](#) | December 19, 2019

**“Is it possible to be prepared without being scared?”**

*“Kids should be prepared, but also that drills do not have to be scary to be effective.”*

*“Schools can take steps to minimize the anxiety and trauma surrounding lockdown drills.”*

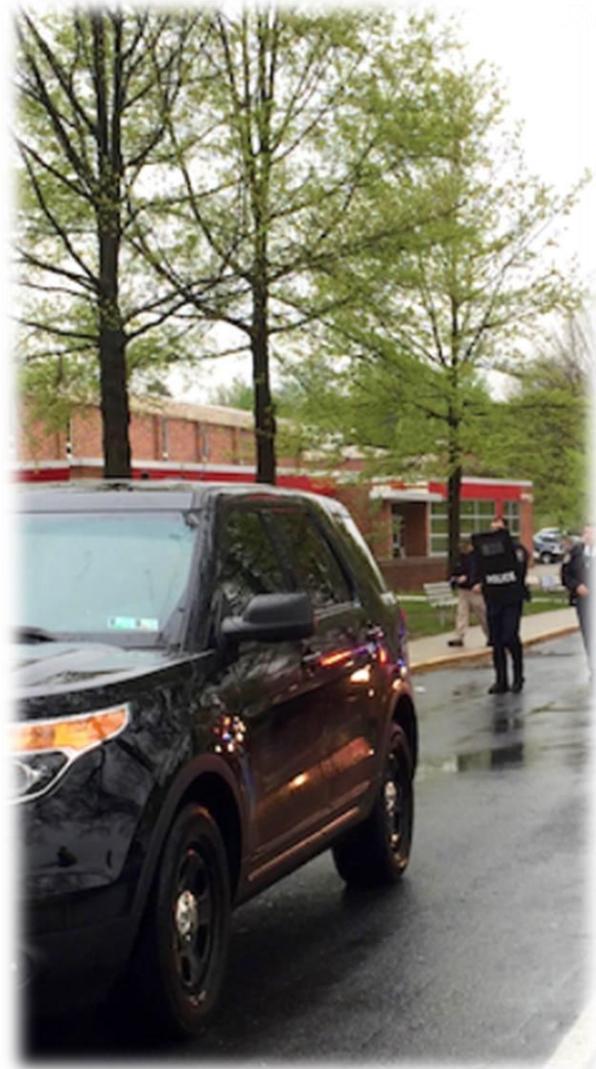
Jaclyn Schildkraut, Researcher and associate professor of criminal justice at the State University of New York Oswego



Lockdown drills: How to balance safety and stress

Under pressure to tighten security, K-12 leaders also work to reduce trauma

By: [Matt Zalaznick](#) | December 19, 2019



**“Is it possible to be prepared without being scared?”**

*“The idea is to teach lockdown procedures like we would reading and math”*

*“We want to make them thoughtful and routine. We can’t just throw students and staff into a drill and expect them to know what to do”*

Cathy Paine, crisis response team lead for the National Association of School Psychologists

**Drills need to be thoughtful versus routine:**

*“Practice like you play, play like you practice ”* – Robert K. Weck,  
Chief of Police, Summit Police Department



# What Did We Learn in Summit?



## **Visual Gaps**

— Large rooms and common areas with high noise had no way of seeing we were in Lockdown or drill of any kind. (target-rich)

## **Hearing Gaps**

— Lack of speakers led to areas lacking coverage of announcement for Lockdown or drill of any kind.

## **Vulnerabilities**

— Individuals outside the building were cut off from any visual or auditory notice of Lockdown or drill of any kind.

## **Need for Vigilance**

— Constant training and staff notification of drills, procedures and systems is needed to address change in staff.

# Meeting Our Needs Through a Highly Effective Coordinated System



**One-Button  
Notification**



**Scalable, Integrated  
Technology**



**Radio Wireless**



**Automated  
Notification**



**Classroom/Office  
Phone Activation**

# STAYING CURRENT ON TRAINING

Brain Science: The Forgetting Curve <https://learningsolutionsmag.com>



**50%**



**30 Min**

**70%**



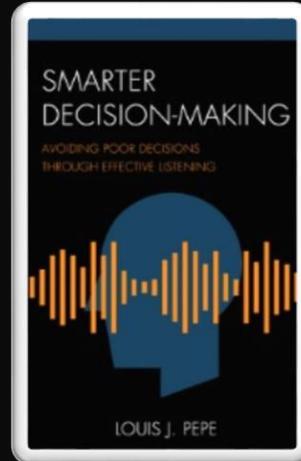
**24 Hours**

**90%**



**1 Week**

# Thank you



**Questions?  
More Information?**

**LOU PEPE PRESENTATIONS, LLC**

<https://loupepersba.wixsite.com/mysite>