

# **Letter of Support for SB0127 to MD Senate Educatio**

Uploaded by: City Council Bowie

Position: FAV



# City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

January 23, 2024

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
c/o Senator Brian J. Feldman  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 0127 - Firearm Detection Platforms in Schools

Dear Senator Feldman,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bowie to express our strong support for Senate Bill 0127, which seeks to require the Maryland Center for School Safety, in collaboration with public safety and educational institutions, to conduct an evaluation of firearm detection platforms. Additionally, the bill authorizes funds from the Safe Schools Fund to be used to assist local school systems in the procurement and maintenance of firearm detection platforms.

The safety and well-being of our students and educators are paramount concerns for our community. Senate Bill 0127 represents a proactive and innovative approach to enhancing school safety by exploring and implementing advanced technologies designed to detect firearms within educational environments.

We commend the Maryland Center for School Safety for taking the initiative to evaluate firearm detection platforms in collaboration with public safety and educational institutions. The proposed use of funds from the Safe Schools Fund to support local school systems in acquiring and maintaining such platforms demonstrates a commitment to providing our schools with the resources needed to create a secure learning environment.

As representatives of the City of Bowie, we believe that Senate Bill 0127 aligns with our commitment to ensuring the safety of our students and educators. The integration of firearm detection platforms has the potential to be a valuable tool in preventing and responding to potential threats, thereby contributing to a safer and more secure educational setting.

We urge the members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to support Senate Bill 0127 and work towards its passage. By supporting this legislation, we collectively prioritize the safety of our schools and the well-being of the young minds that are the future of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we appreciate your ongoing efforts to address issues that impact the safety and security of our educational institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Adams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bowie City Council  
Timothy J. Adams  
Mayor

# **Letter of Support for SB0127 to MD Senate Educatio**

Uploaded by: Daniel Mears

Position: FAV



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Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we appreciate your ongoing efforts to address issues that impact the safety and security of our educational institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bowie City Council  
Timothy J. Adams  
Mayor

# **ZeroEyes SB 127 Favorable Written.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mia Link

Position: FAV



DATE: January 24, 2024

TO: Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: ZeroEyes

SUBJECT: Support Senate Bill 127, Evaluation of Firearm Detection Platforms

Thank you, Chairman Smith, and committee members, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 127. I'd like to also thank the sponsors, Senator Watson, Senator Carozza, and Senator Muse. On behalf of the ZeroEyes team, thank you for spearheading this issue.

My name is Mia Link, and I am the Vice President of Strategy for ZeroEyes. ZeroEyes was founded in 2018 by military veterans with the mission of improving public safety by providing proactive firearm detection in schools, commercial buildings, and government infrastructure.

Five years ago, ZeroEyes was spurred into action following the events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, when a former student brought a gun into the school, killing 17 and wounding an additional 17 people. Our team has grown out of the military special operations community and is now close to 200 employees, 80% of whom are military and law enforcement veterans.

Our technology uses artificial intelligence software implemented on already existing security camera infrastructure to detect visible firearms and alert law enforcement within seconds. Again, these are existing cameras that are then integrated with AI technology. Our software does not perform any sort of facial recognition, behavioral characterization, or predictive analytics and is compliant with all privacy standards and frameworks.

In the last five years, we have experienced rapid growth. Our software is deployed into hundreds of K-12 districts across 35 states. Our service is also used and implemented within large enterprise organizations such as the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, Meijer, Verizon, FedEx, DHL, Subaru, and Home Depot among many others.

The lack of budget is the single greatest obstacle for schools to implement this technology. With this bill, Maryland would join other states that are prioritizing school safety by taking the initiative to fund and add a proactive, technological solution to the growing problem of gun violence in schools. We believe that this is the future direction – not just for school safety, but also for other areas such as hospitals, shopping centers, and so much more.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with the State of Maryland and the Office of School Safety on this pilot should this legislation be enacted. We would also like to offer a demonstration of our technology, should your committee be interested.





Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue and I'm happy to take any questions at this time.

# **K-12 School Shooting Database - online.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ron Watson

Position: FAV



# K-12 School Shooting Database

## How Many School Shootings? All Incidents From 1966–Present

All shootings at schools includes when a gun is brandished, is fired, or a bullet hits school property for any reason, regardless of the number of victims, time, or day of the week.

How many school shootings this year? Unlike other data sources, this information *includes* gang shootings, domestic violence, shootings at sports games and afterhours school events, suicides, fights that escalate into shootings, and accidents.

This information is recorded to document the number of school shootings and full scope of gun violence on school campuses.

Use of this data must be cited with: Riedman, David (2023). K-12 School Shooting Database.

To request an excel copy of the raw data, email [k12ssdb@gmail.com](mailto:k12ssdb@gmail.com) with your full name, institution/organization, contact information, how you plan to use the data, and statement affirming that your use of the data will be cited. **Note: Due to the high volume of emails, you may not receive an immediate response.**

example@gmail.com **Subscribe**

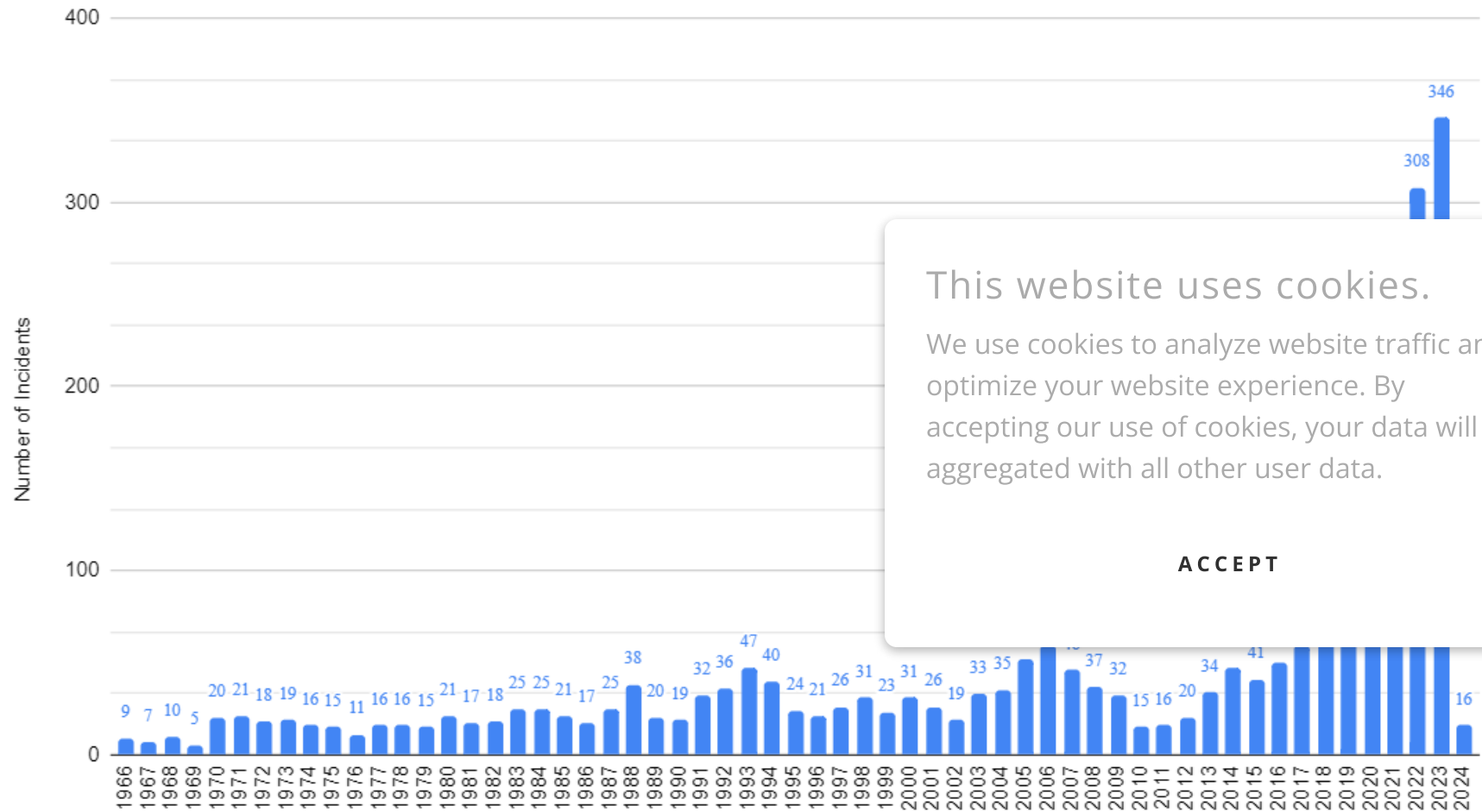


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### K-12 School Shooting Database: Incidents by Year 1966-2024

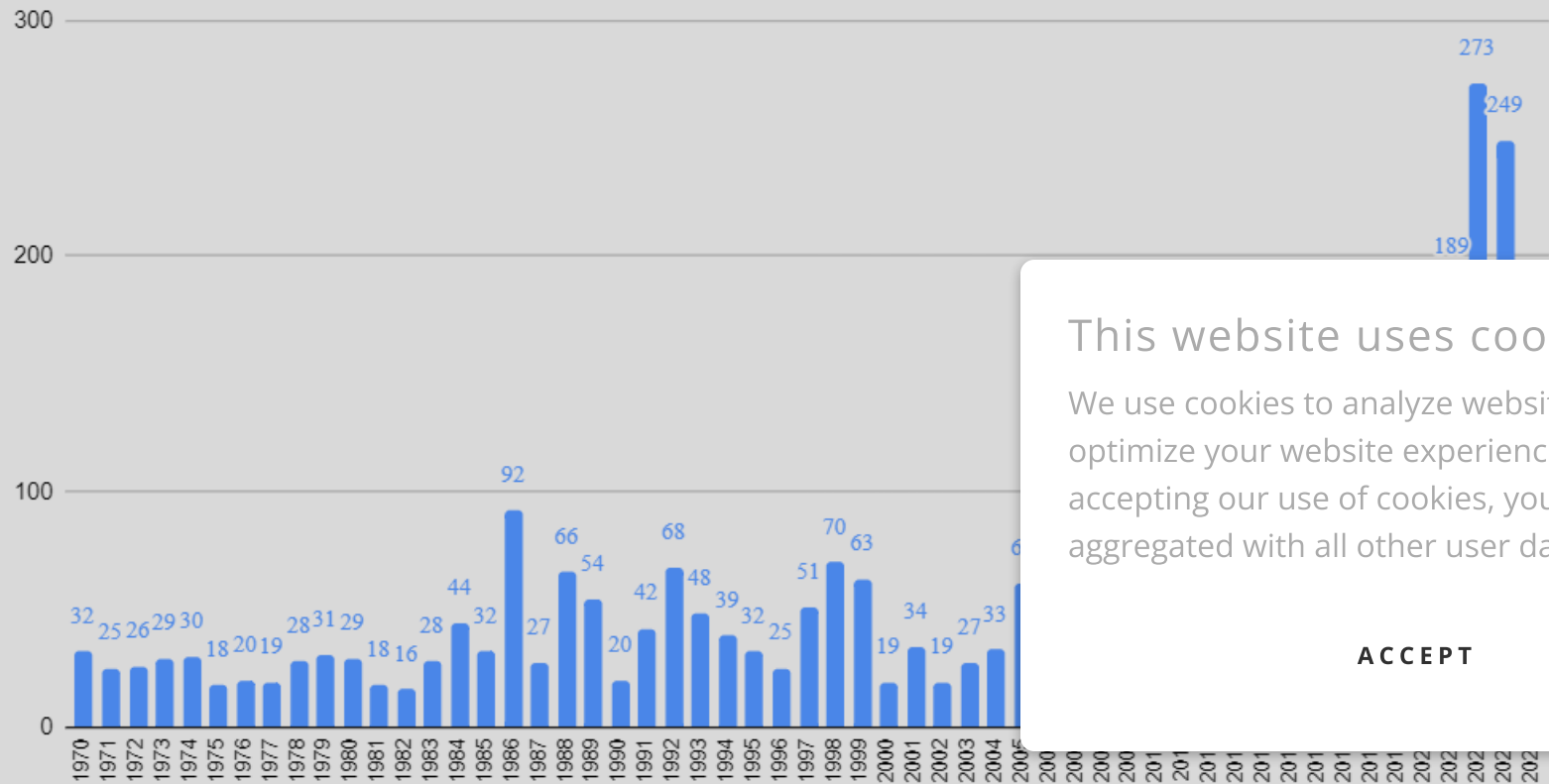


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### Number of victims (fatal and wounded) on K-12 school property



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### K-12 School Shooting Database: Situation

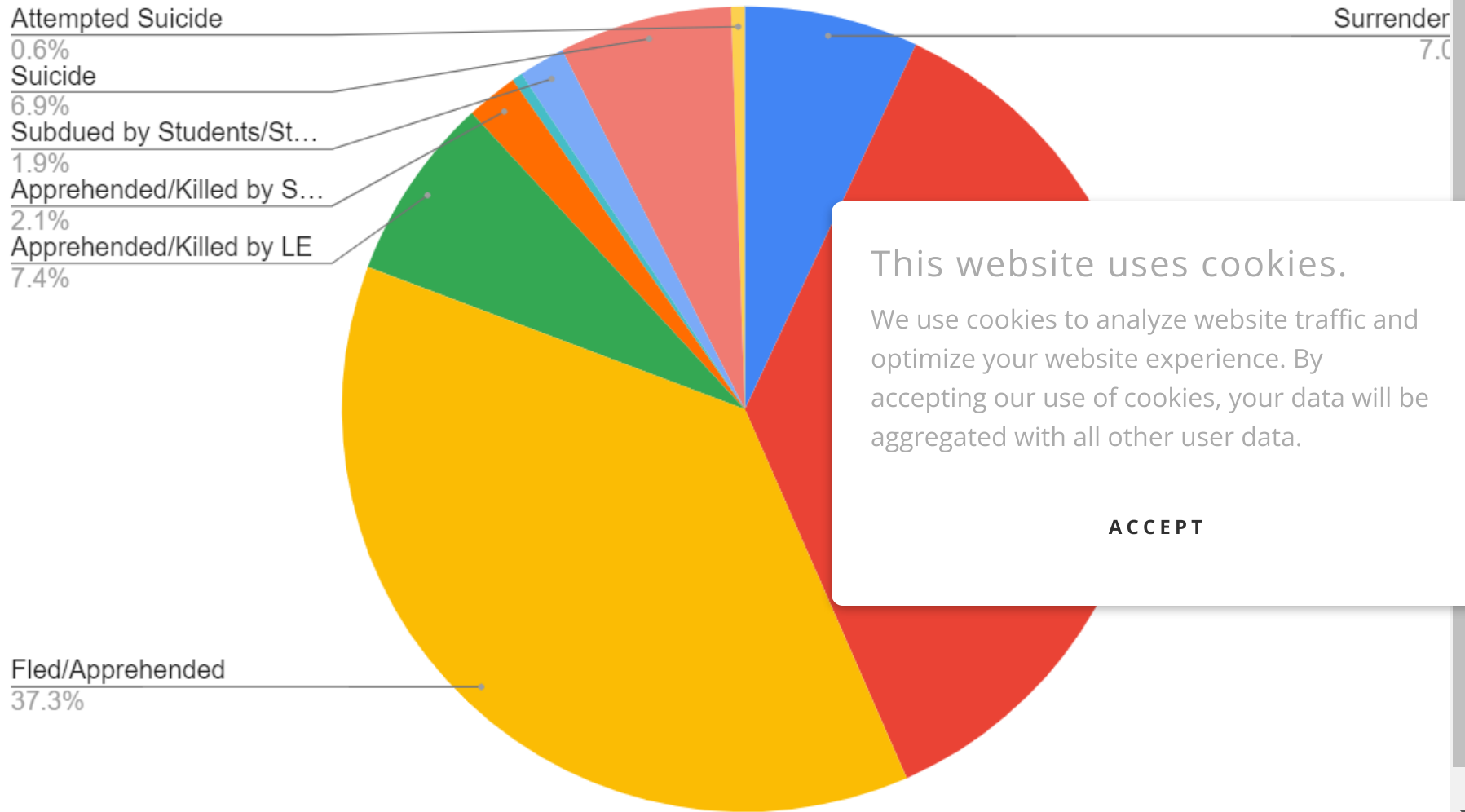


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### K-12 School Shooting Database: How the Incident Ended



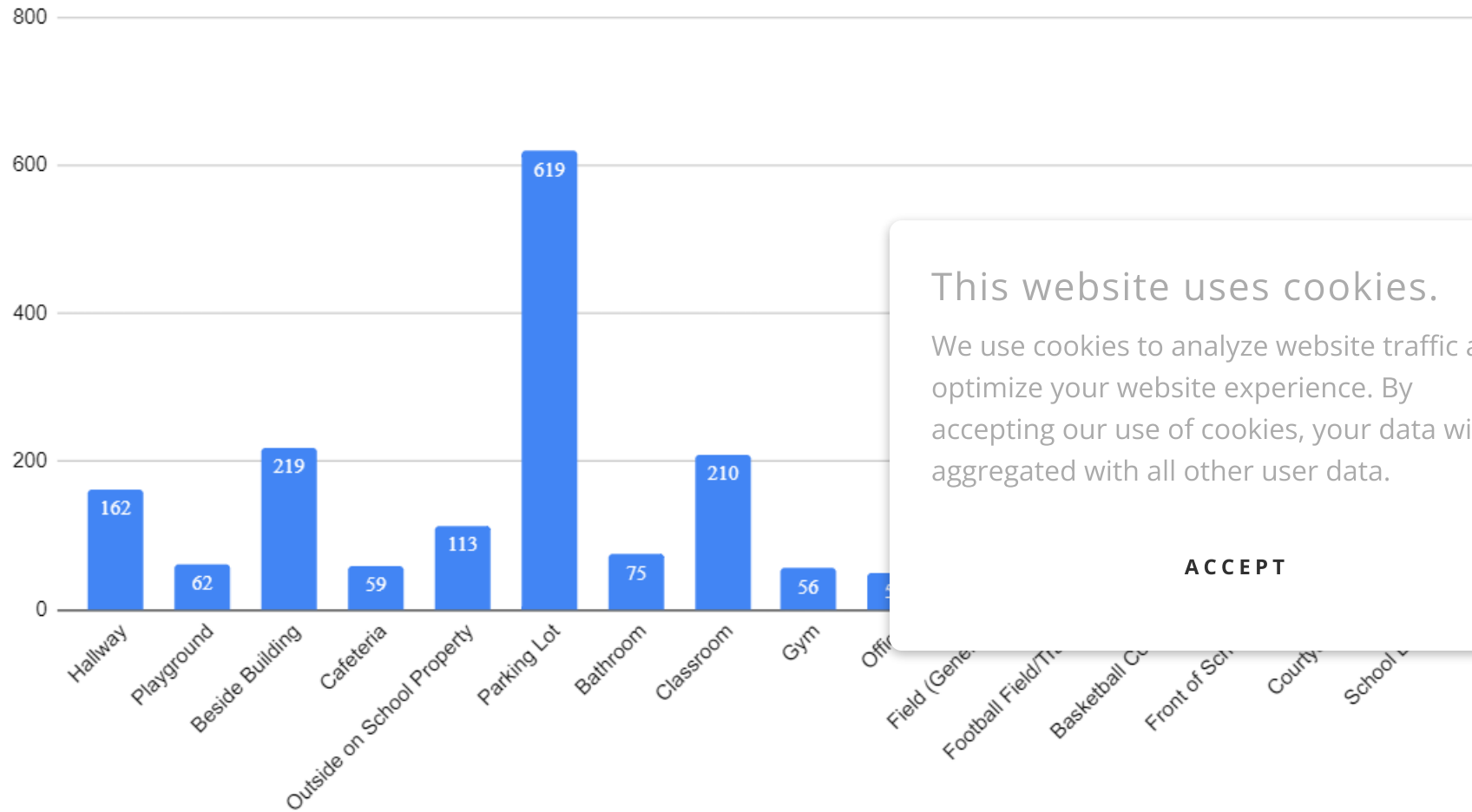
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### Location at School where Shooting Occurred

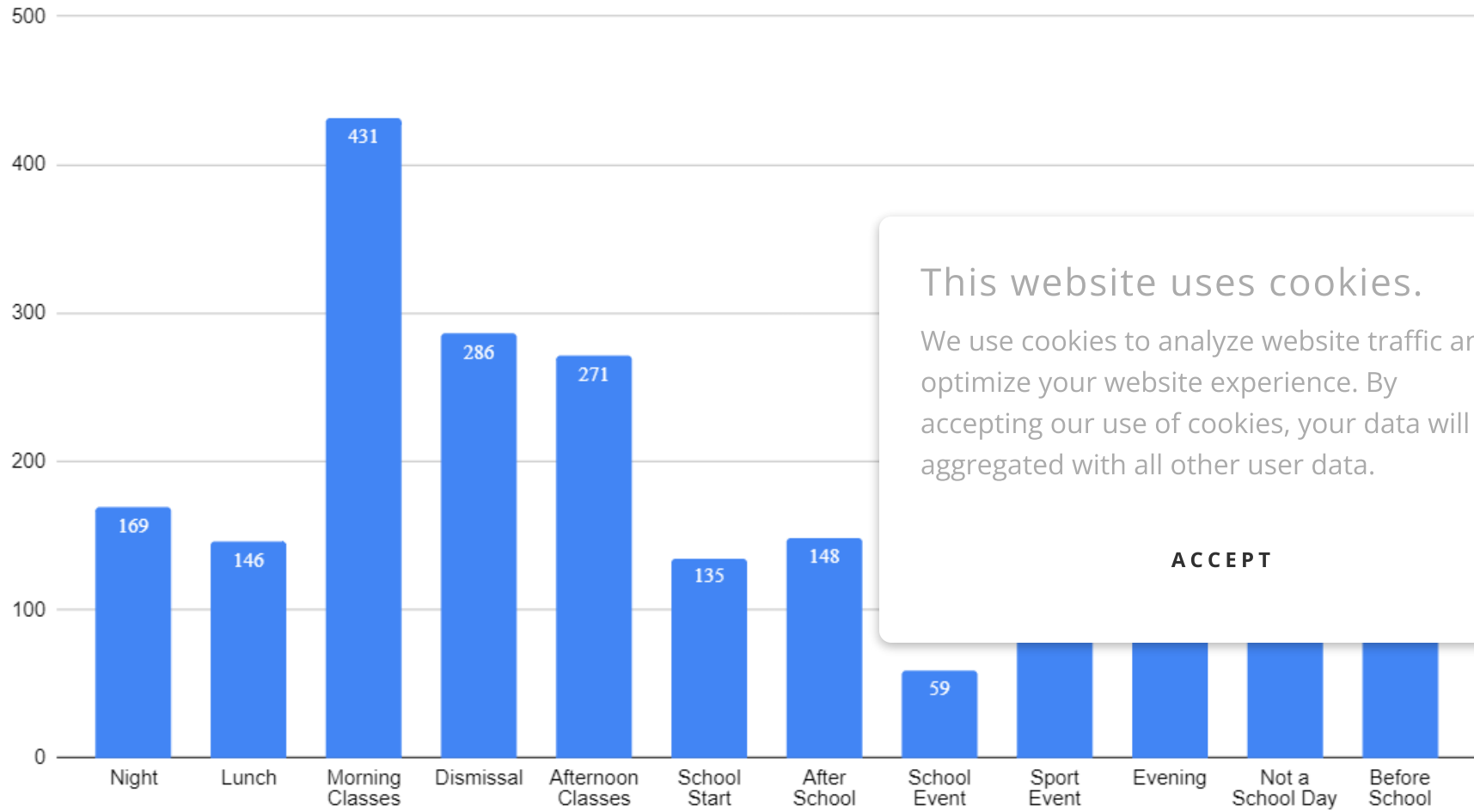


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### Time Period When Shooting Occurred

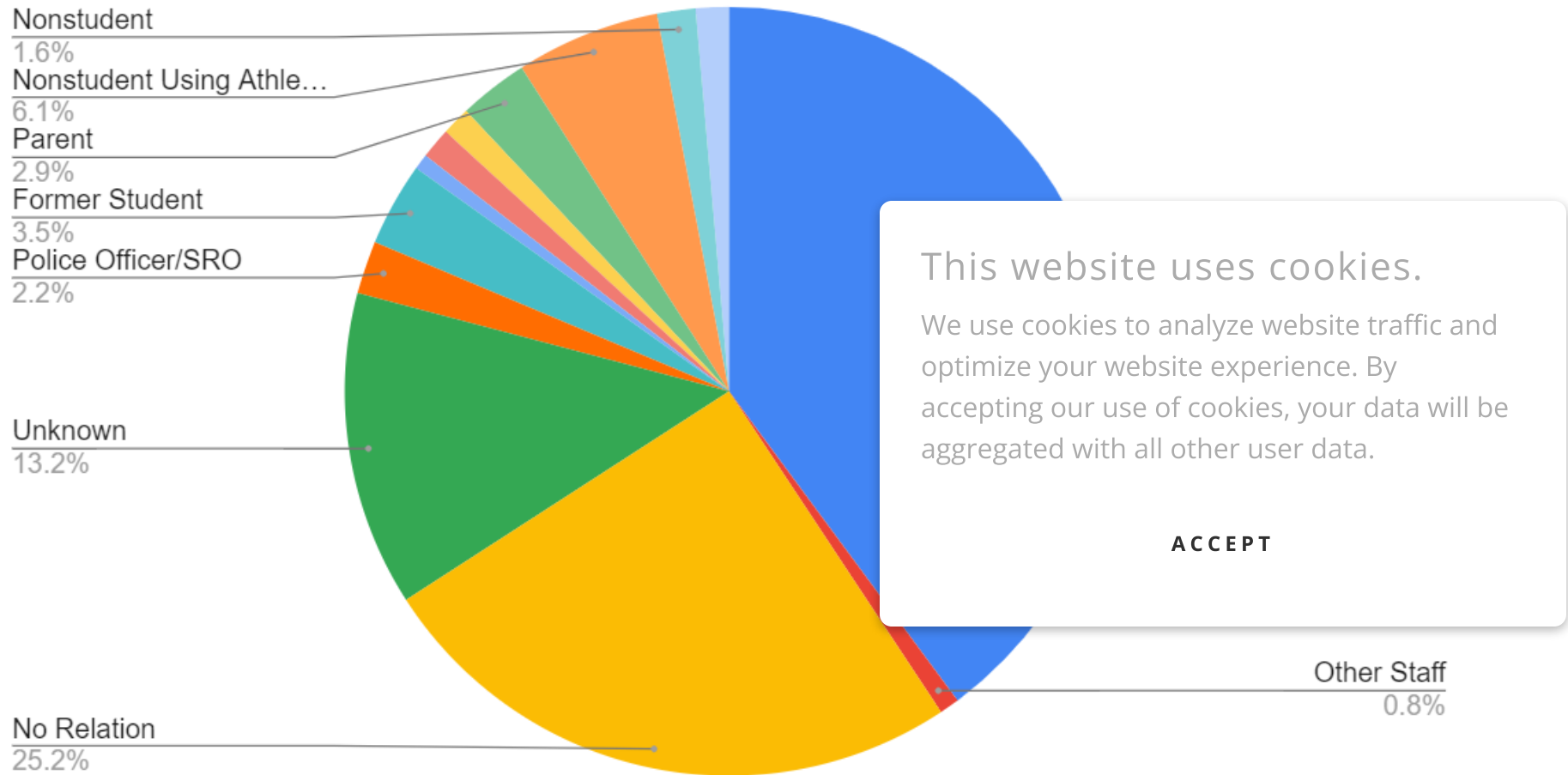


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# Relation of Shooter to School



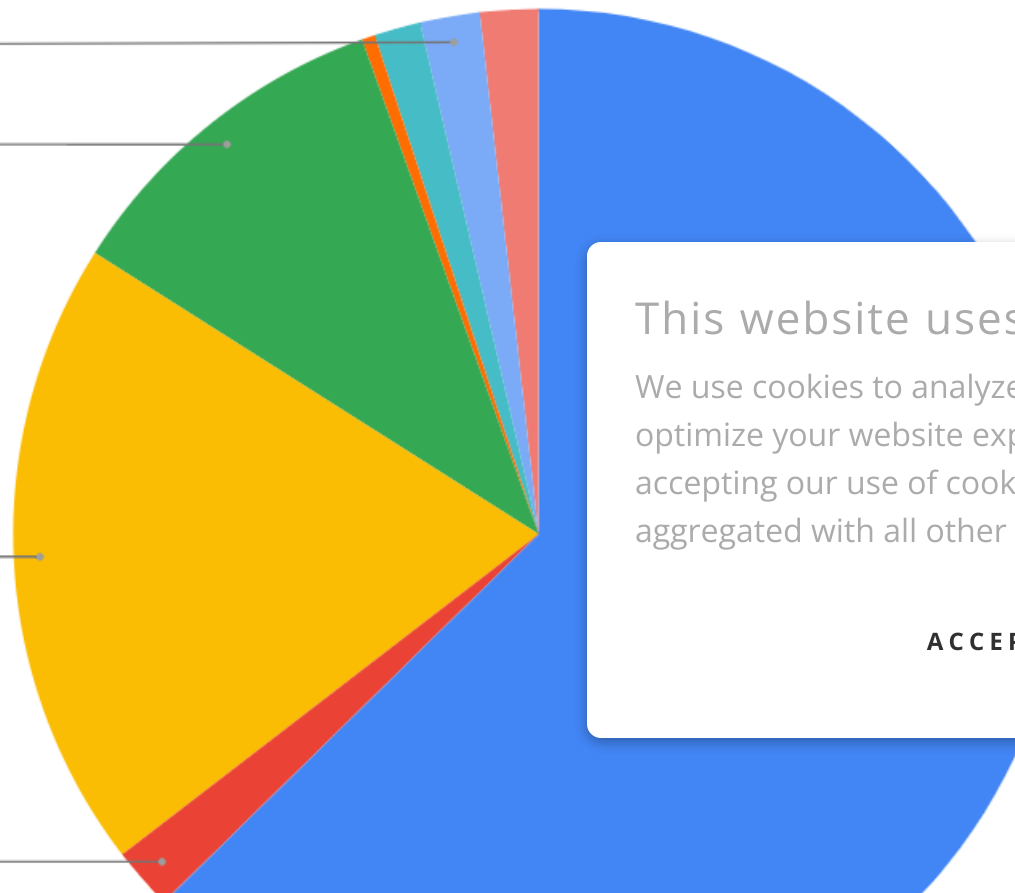
### K-12 School Shooting Database: School Level

K-8  
1.8%

Middle  
10.5%

Elementary  
19.4%

Junior High  
1.9%



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# **SB127 - K-12 School Shooting Database - online.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ron Watson

Position: FAV



# K-12 School Shooting Database

SB127

Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

## How Many School Shootings? All Incidents From 1966–Present

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SB127  
Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

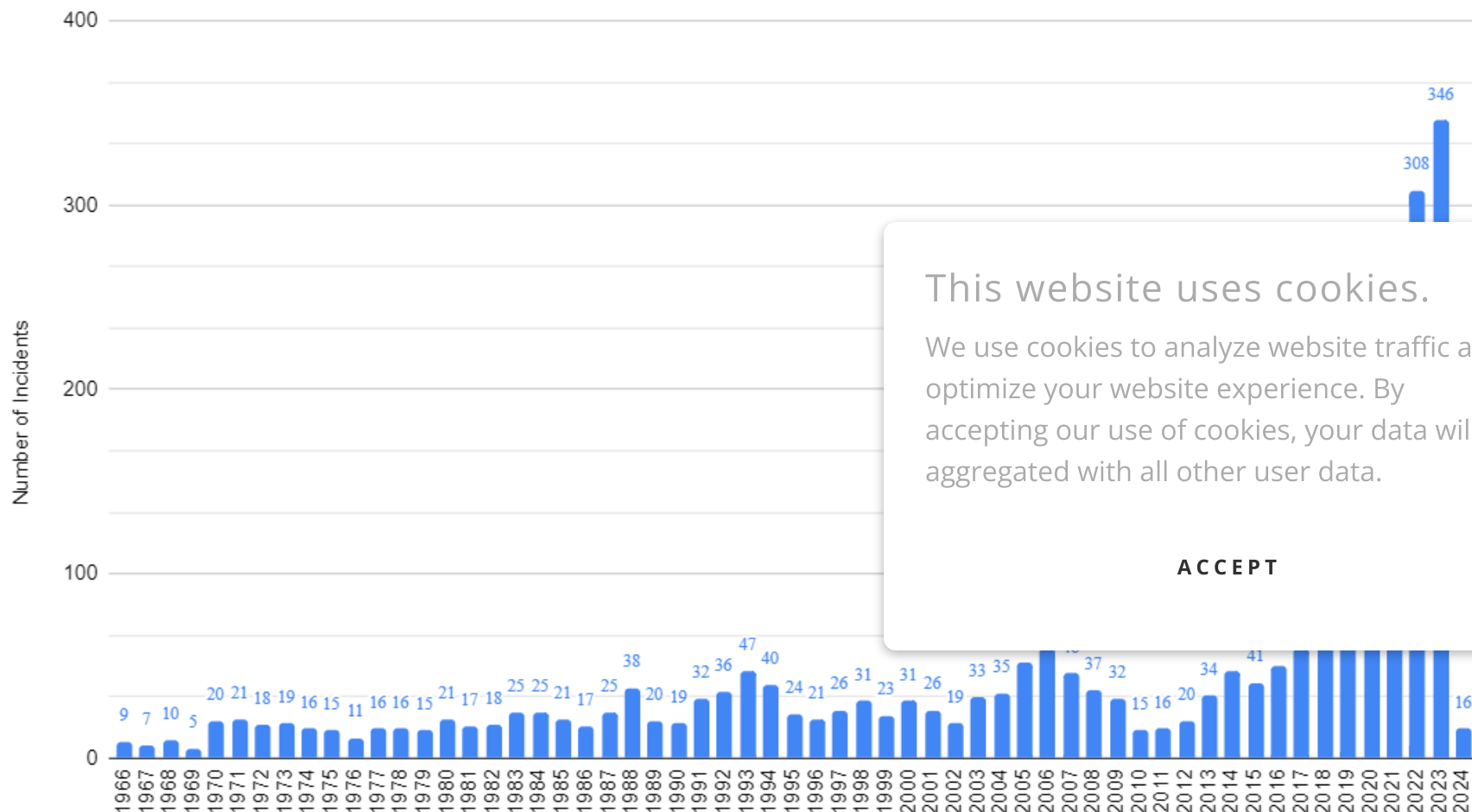
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### K-12 School Shooting Database: Incidents by Year 1966-2024



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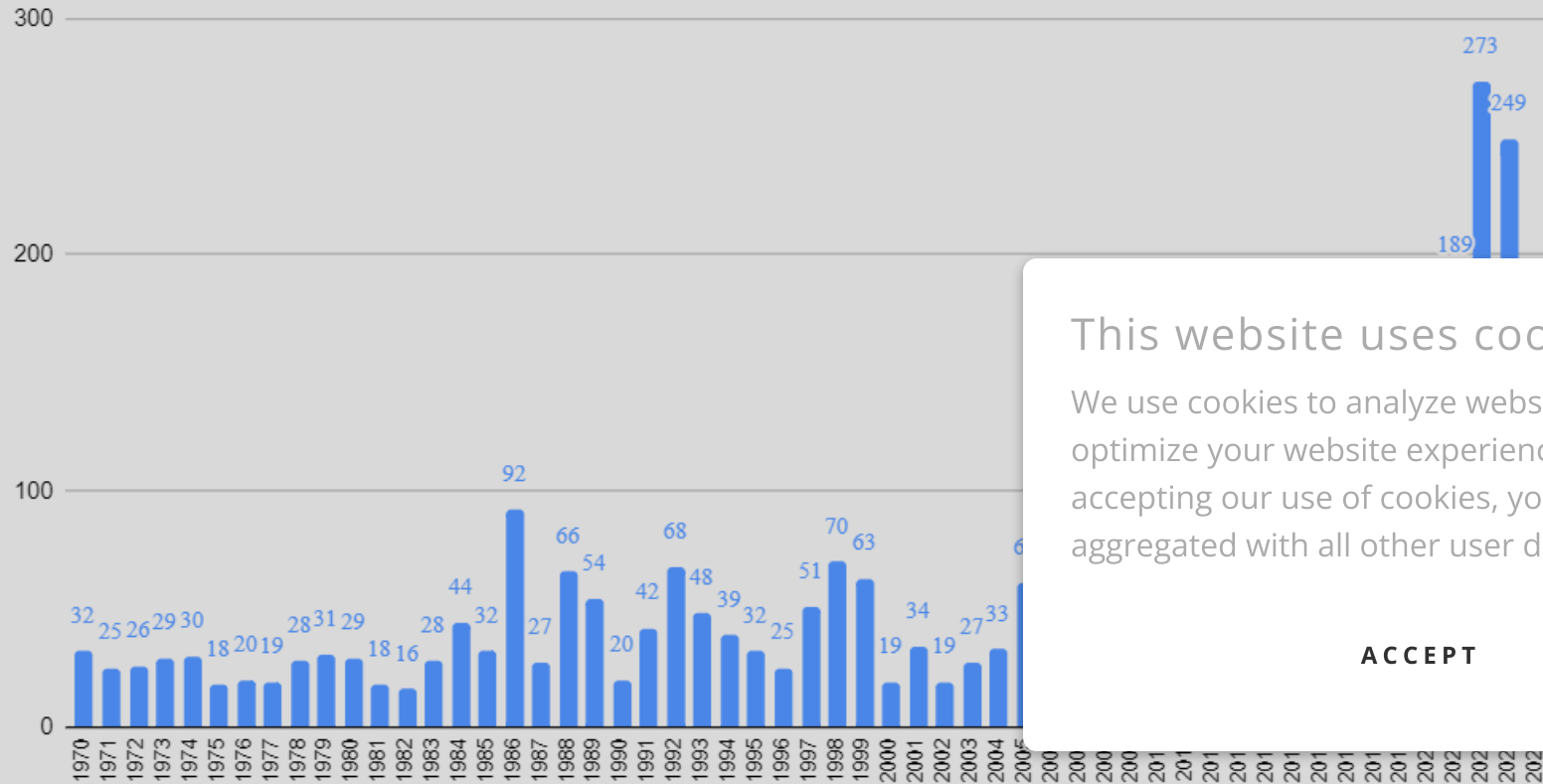
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SB127  
Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

# SB127 Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

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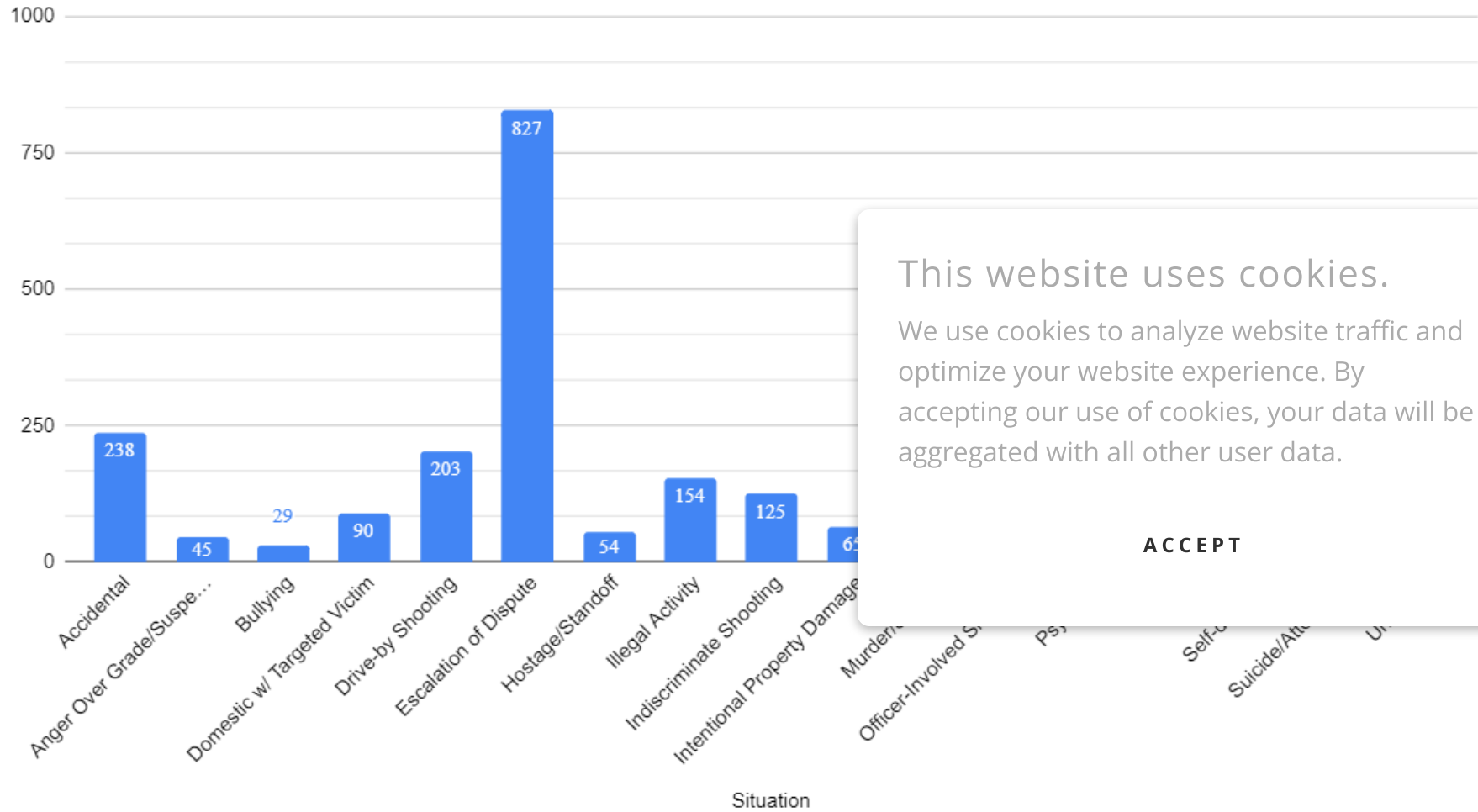
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# SB127

## Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

### K-12 School Shooting Database: Situation

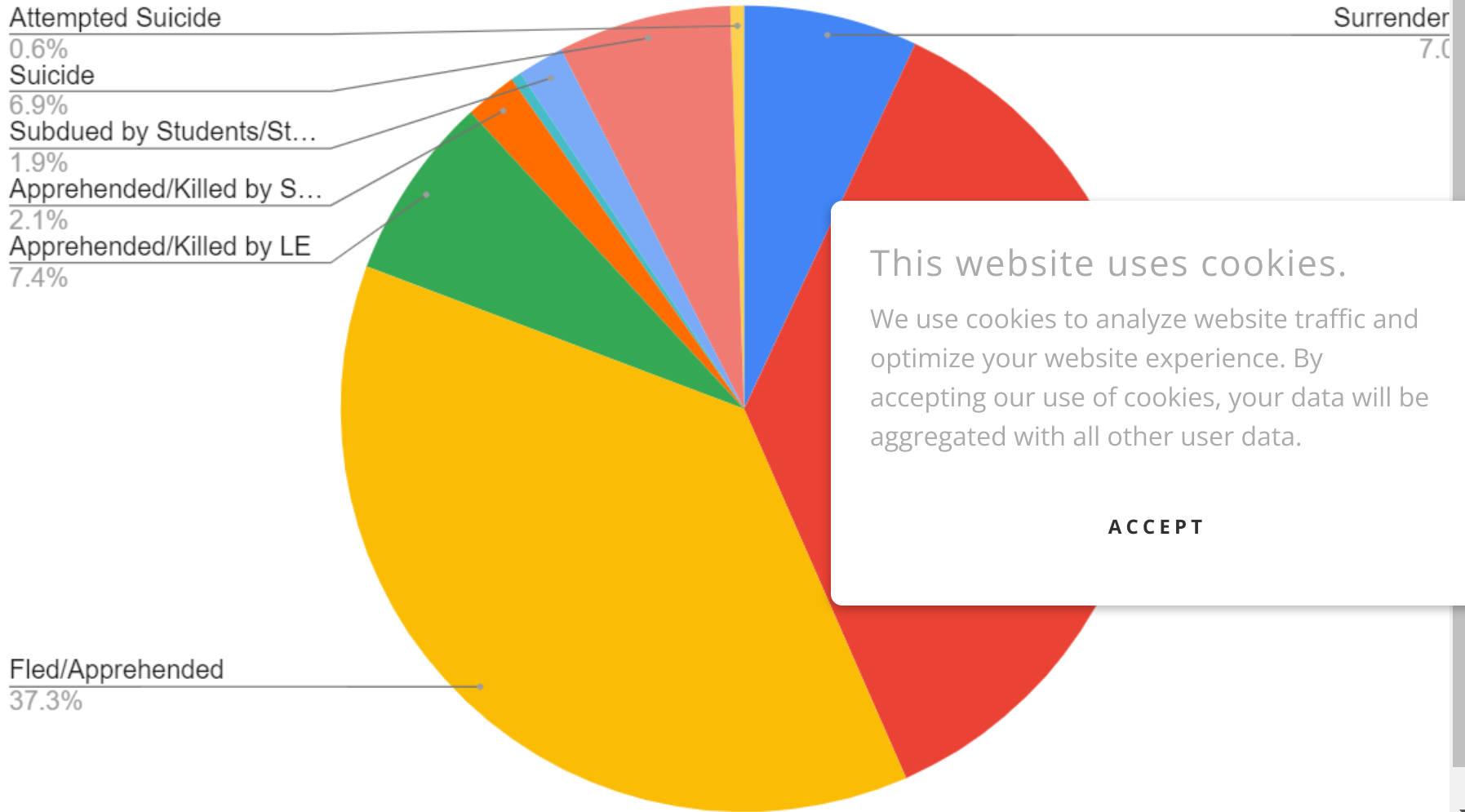


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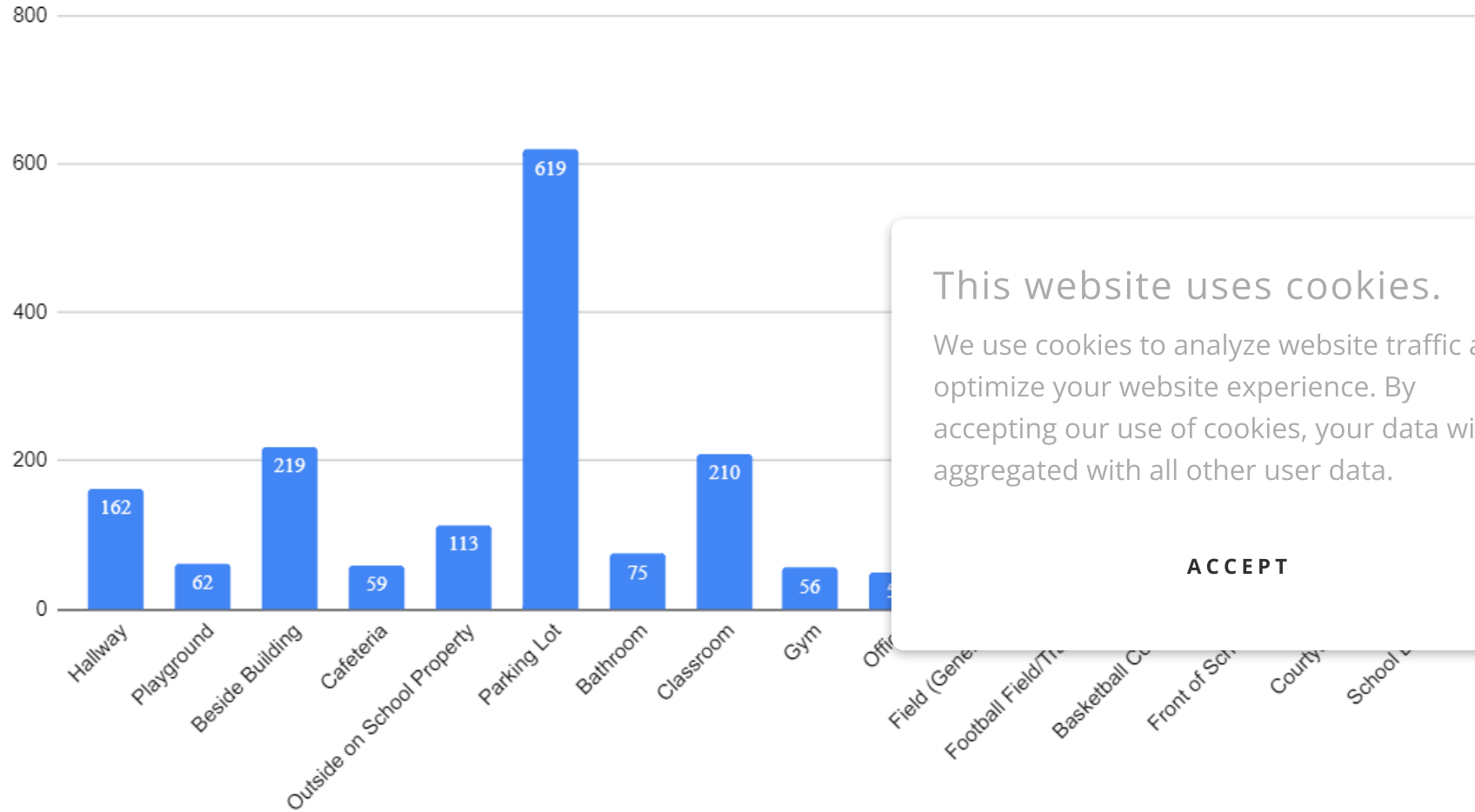
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# SB127

## Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

### Location at School where Shooting Occurred

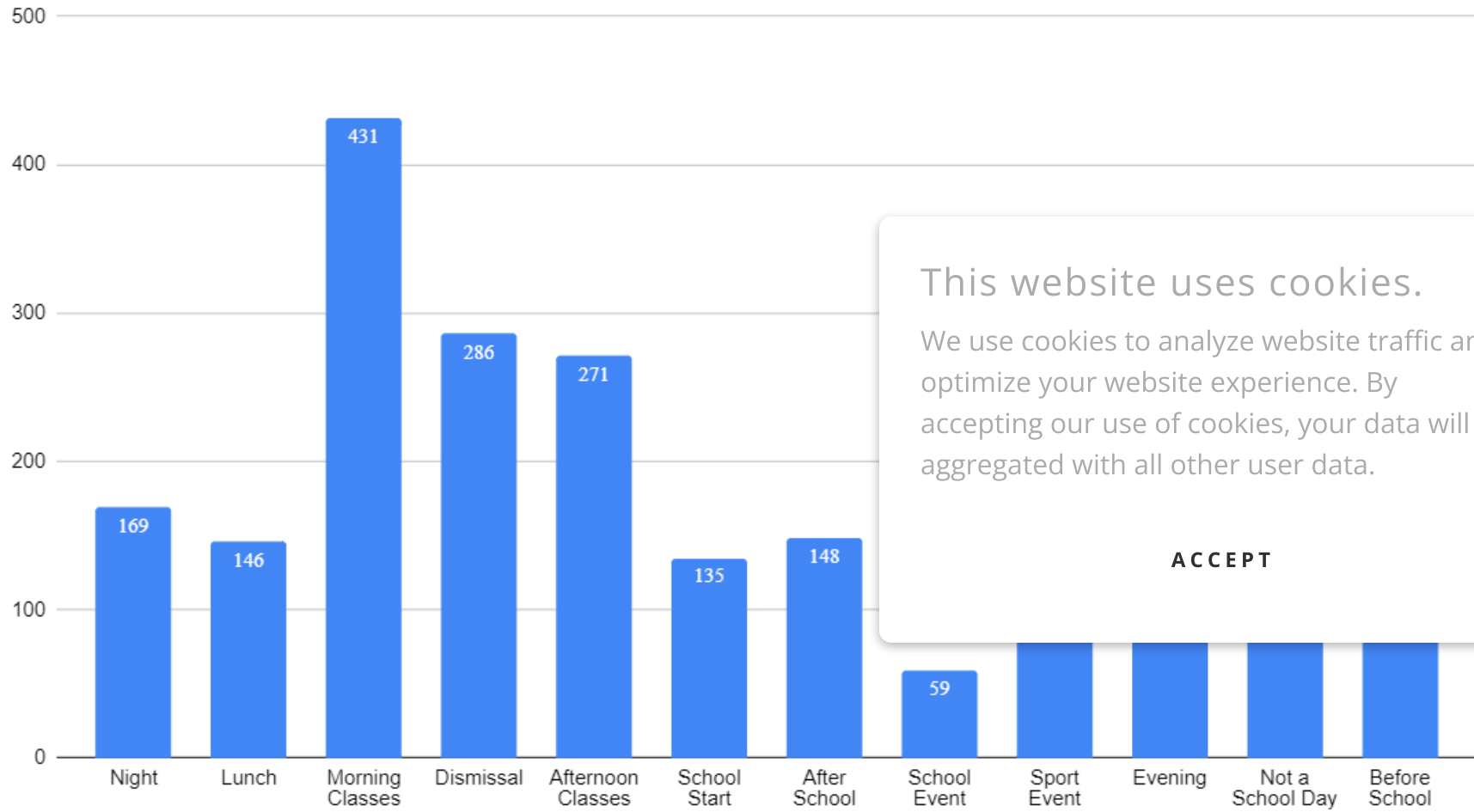


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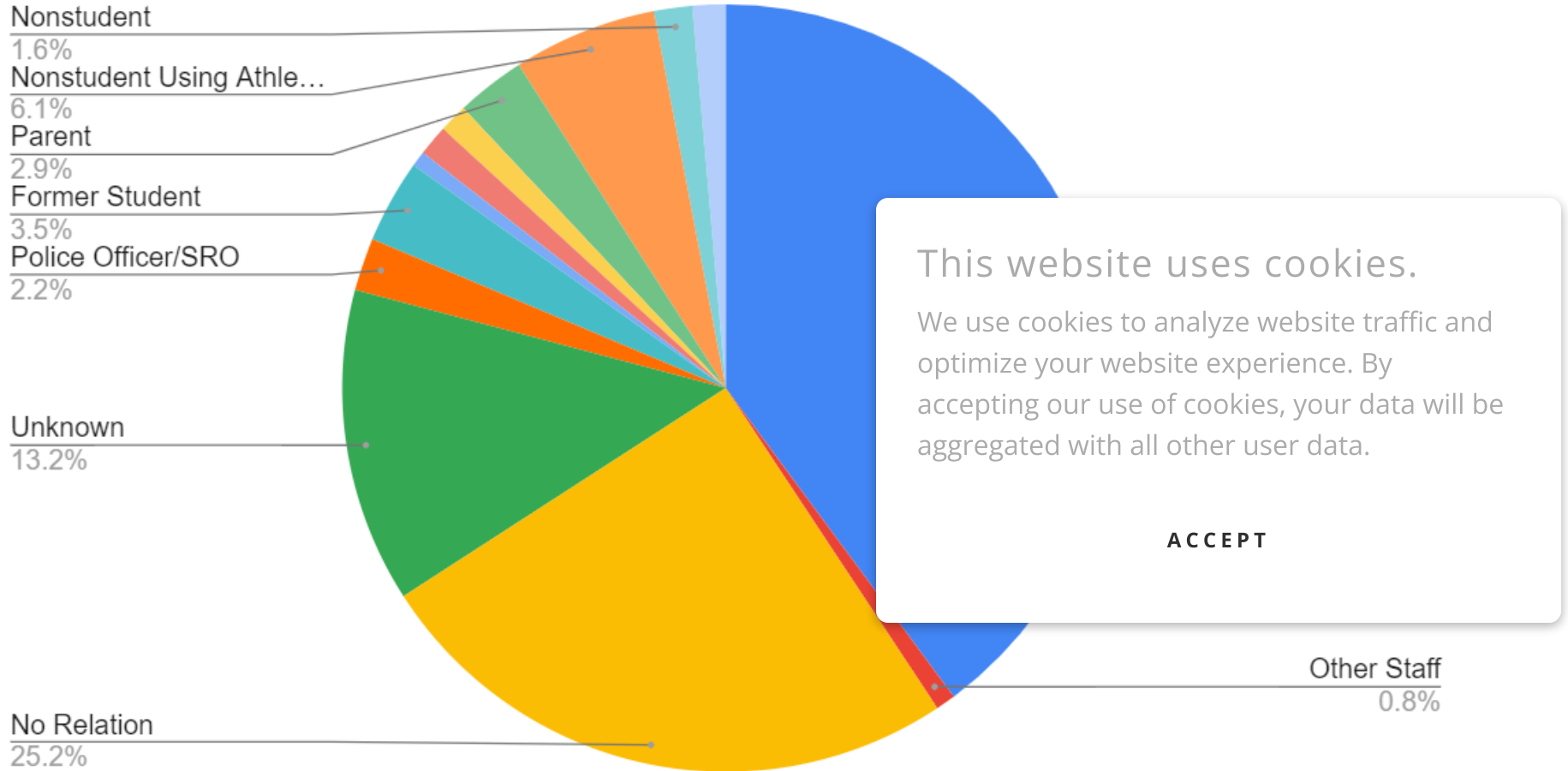


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### Relation of Shooter to School



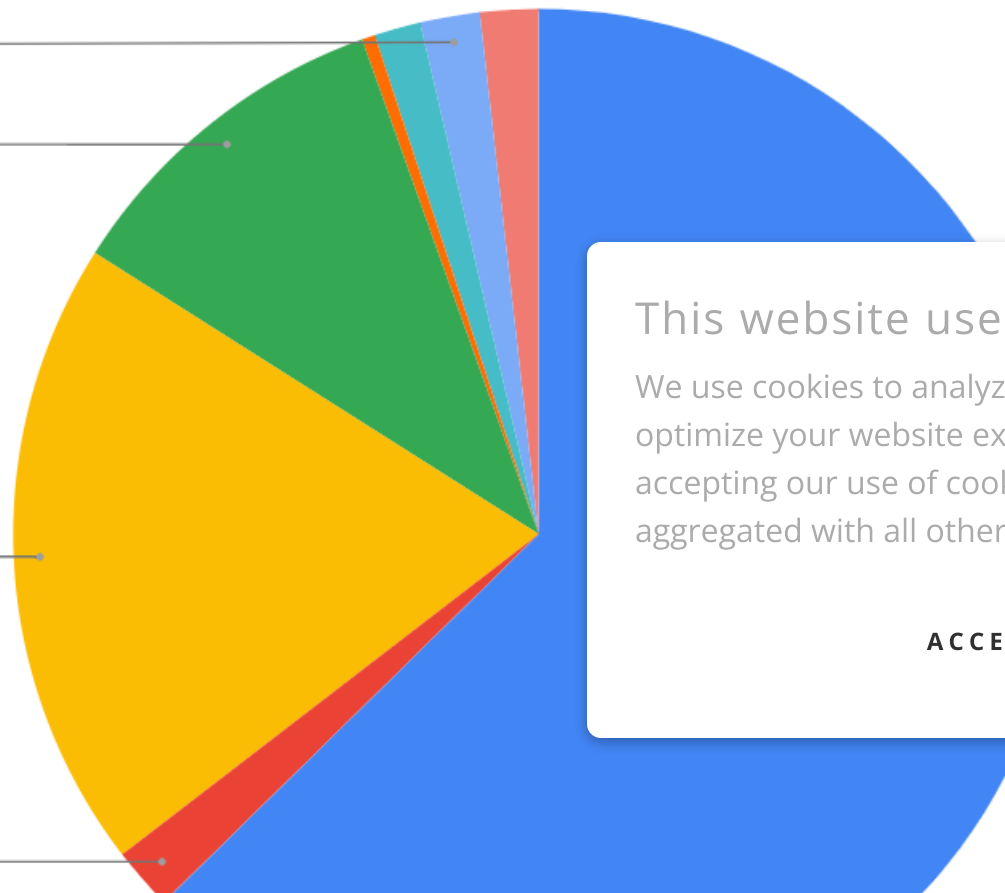
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## SB127

Senator Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.

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# **SB127 - Maryland Center for School Safety -Firearm**

Uploaded by: Dawana Sterrette

Position: FWA

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
Support with Amendments  
Senate Bill 127  
Maryland Center for School Safety – Firearm Detection Platforms – Evaluation  
(Maryland Firearm Detection Platform Act)**

**January 24, 2024**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendments Senate Bill 127 as a manner in which to create safety in school buildings. The proposed legislation would authorize the Safe School Fund to be used to procure and maintain firearm detection platforms in local school systems.

Unfortunately, the bill’s definition of “firearm detection platform” does not include walk-through firearm detection systems like Evolv Express, which could replace metal detectors at our school doors in Baltimore City. The definition only includes systems like Evolv Extend, which uses AI to identify guns via video stream from on-site cameras. The Baltimore City School Board would urge the legislation be strengthened by making walk-through firearm detection systems eligible for funding. The bill could also be strengthened by increasing the allocation to the fund to account for the new costs of updated technology available for school safety.

Finally, the school board remains concerned by the requirement that school districts use automatic notification features in order to be eligible for the Safe School Fund Grant. The requirement to proactively notify law enforcement may not be beneficial in all circumstances, and ought not to be a caveat for funding eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendments the legislation and urges a favorable report with the amendments noted in our written testimony.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.  
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs  
[dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us)  
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome  
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs  
[mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us)  
443-525-3038





**SB 127\_CRSD\_Firearm Detection Platform.\_Oppose.doc**

Uploaded by: Gail Sunderman

Position: UNF

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# MARYLAND COALITION TO REFORM SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

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## SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, and the ENVIRONMENT

### SENATE BILL 127: Maryland Center for School Safety- Firearm Detection Platforms Evaluation (Maryland Firearm Detection Platform Act)

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2024

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline (CRSD) brings together advocates, service providers, and community members dedicated to transforming school discipline practices within Maryland's public school systems. CRSD is committed to the fair and equitable treatment of ALL students, including pregnant or parenting students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and socio-economic status, and reducing barriers to learning for ALL students. CRSD opposes SB 127, which would authorize funds for the procurement, maintenance, and evaluation of firearm detection platforms administered by Maryland Center for School Safety, in collaboration with other state agencies.

The bill's focus on firearm detection platforms does not reflect evidence-based practices shared by school safety experts and lacks sufficient oversight to ensure that these expensive efforts will actually advance school safety. In addition, the focus on technology diverts attention away from other needed reforms, such as gun control legislation, and research based policies and practices that promote school safety and student well-being.<sup>1</sup>

First, the National Institute for Justice (NIJ) found that video cameras, metal detectors, and technology-aided identification have a limited evidence base.<sup>2</sup> In addition, Premier AI-driven weapons detection platforms have failed to detect knives, a preferred weapon among high school students, 42% of the time. In one district a Glock firearm passed through the scanners undetected.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, weapons detection technology does little to prevent violence outside of the school building. The Washington Post reports that 14 of the 21 school shootings in the first five months of 2023 occurred outside of the school building.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, in Baltimore City, many high-profile murders over the last year and a half took place at the entrance, parking lot, athletic facilities, or in the communities surrounding the school.

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<sup>1</sup> DePaoli, J. & McCombs, J. (2023). *Safe schools, thriving students: What we know about creating safe and supportive schools*. Learning Policy Institute. <https://doi.org/10.54300/701.445>. Accessed 19 January 2024. National Center for School Safety. *School safety at a glance*.

<https://www.nc2s.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/School-Safety-At-A-Glance.pdf> Accessed 18 January 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. (2016). Comprehensive Report on School Safety Technology. National Institute of Justice. <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/comprehensive-report-school-safety-technology>

<sup>3</sup> Blad, Evie. "Schools Turn to AI to Detect Weapons. But Some Question the Tech's Effectiveness." *Education Week*, 12 April 2023,

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/schools-turn-to-ai-to-detect-weapons-but-some-question-the-techs-effectiveness/2023/04>. Accessed 18 January 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Elwood, Karina. "Schools are hoping AI-powered weapons detectors can improve school safety." *Washington Post*, 11 June 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/06/11/school-weapons-detectors-ai-virginia/>. Accessed 18 January 2024.

Administrators and district leadership who have purchased the expensive weapons detection technology say that, “Relationships trump any system you have.” Ultimately, weapon detection technology is only as effective as the procedures and relationships that are implemented in the school. Maryland schools need more assistance with this key human component, something that this bill does not provide.

Second, school safety experts agree that a combination of strategies that include prevention, response, and recovery are needed. Practices with a clear and consistent evidence base include the creation of a positive school climate, support for social emotional learning and restorative practices, and anti-bullying programs. To prevent weapons from entering school buildings, the National Center for School Safety (NCSS) recommends an attentive environmental approach including interpersonal reporting systems, threat assessments, effective communication with law enforcement, and effective school-focused door lock policies and signage.<sup>5 6 7</sup>

Third, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) needs to put in place additional oversight, protocols, and accountability measures before it is given additional responsibilities. A state audit of the MCSS and the Safe Schools Fund published in January 2023,<sup>8</sup> found that MCSS distributed less than half of the funds to Local Education Agencies, and failed to provide sufficient supporting documentation for the funds that were expended. More concerning, the audit found MCSS lacked adequate written policies and procedures for administering the Safe Schools Maryland tip line. Clear and effective policies and communications are essential for effective school violence prevention measures. Effective procedures and policies are necessary to ensure that funds are being administered consistent with evidenced based practices and rigorous evaluation is being conducted.

Finally, a comprehensive evaluation should be undertaken before a technology solution is adopted.

For these reasons, CRSD urges the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee to broaden their definition of school safety measures to include prevention and ensure that MCSS has the capacity to adequately administer and evaluate SB 127. Maryland desperately needs to invest in the safety of our schools. Maryland students and educators deserve the most effective and researched based strategies. Firearm detection platforms do not meet these criteria.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB127.

For more information contact:

Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline  
[CRSDMaryland@gmail.com](mailto:CRSDMaryland@gmail.com)

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<sup>5</sup> Messman, E., Heinze, J., Hsieh, H.-F., Hockley, N., Pomerantz, N., Grodzinski, A., Scott, B., Goldstein, N., & Zimmerman, M. (2022). Anonymous Reporting Systems for School-Based Violence Prevention: A Systematic Review. *Health Education & Behavior*, 10901981211073734.

<sup>6</sup> Koffkey, C., & Heinze, J. (2021). School Safety & Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (Video). <https://www.nc2s.org/resource/school-safety-crime-prevention-through-environmental-design-cpted-video/>

<sup>7</sup> Progress Report: Crisis Timeline and Law Enforcement. (n.d.).

<sup>8</sup> “Maryland Center for School Safety.” *General Assembly of Maryland Department of Legislative Services*, 11 January 2023, <https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPblTabPDF/MCSS23.pdf>. Accessed 18 January 2024.



**CRSD Members**

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Disability Rights Maryland

The Choice Program at UMBC

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

Public Justice Center

FreeState Justice

ACLU of Maryland

Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) at Kennedy Krieger Institute

# **BTU Testimony in Opposition of SB127.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nathan Ferrell

Position: UNF



AFT 340 AFL-CIO  
Seton Business Park  
5800 Metro Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21215-3209

**SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, and the ENVIRONMENT**

**SENATE BILL 127: Maryland Center for School Safety- Firearm Detection Platforms Evaluation  
(Maryland Firearm Detection Platform Act)**

**DATE: JANUARY 24, 2024**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

The Baltimore Teachers Union opposes Senate Bill 127, which would authorize funds for the procurement, maintenance, and evaluation of firearm detection platforms administered by Maryland Center for School Safety, in collaboration with other state agencies.

The Baltimore Teachers Union represents 8,280 teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, clinicians, librarians, secretaries, community school site specialists, bus transportation aides, and many more school-based and central office support staff. We are 4 out of 5 workers in Baltimore City Public Schools, serving 75,811 students and their families. Our national union, the American Federation of Teachers, has over 1.7 million members in the United States and its territories.

SB 127's focus on firearm detection platforms does not reflect evidence-based practices shared by school safety experts and lacks sufficient oversight to ensure that these expensive efforts will actually advance school safety.

In Baltimore city, where our district will not commit to evidence based safety measures like ensuring that all classroom doors can lock, they have spent millions already on “pilot” programs of the EVOLV Weapons Detection System. The focus on technology diverts attention away from other needed reforms, such as gun control legislation, and research based policies and practices that promote school safety and student well-being.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> DePaoli, J. & McCombs, J. (2023). *Safe schools, thriving students: What we know about creating safe and supportive schools*. Learning Policy Institute. <https://doi.org/10.54300/701.445>. Accessed 19 January 2024.  
[National Center for School Safety. \*School safety at a glance\*.  
https://www.nc2s.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/School-Safety-At-A-Glance.pdf](https://www.nc2s.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/School-Safety-At-A-Glance.pdf) Accessed 18 January 2024.

The National Institute for Justice (NIJ) found that video cameras, metal detectors, and technology-aided identification have a limited evidence base.<sup>2</sup> The efficacy of the Evolv AI Weapons Detection Systems which is already deployed in BCPSS is questionable, at best. In Dorchester County, MD, nearly half (41.9%) of 'alerts' pinged by Evolv AI Weapons Detection Systems countywide between March 1 and October 1, 2022 were 'benign,' meaning the scanners accidentally mistook laptops, eyeglass cases and strollers for weapons. In that seven month period, 33,515 total alerts in Dorchester schools resulted in only 46 weapons obtained by the authorities. The reverse also holds true: In Utica, NY, local authorities phased out Evolv systems from public schools after they failed to detect a knife used in a violent stabbing on school grounds.

At a time when the popularity of Evolv weapons detection technology has been precipitously declining in cities around the country due to "questions about whether the new technology is effective" (NYT), Baltimore's families deserve assurance that wasting money on such ineffectiveness of Evolv systems in other jurisdictions will not be replicated in City Schools.

Weapons detection technology does little to prevent violence outside of the school building. The Washington Post reports that 14 of the 21 school shootings in the first five months of 2023 occurred outside of the school building.<sup>3</sup> Baltimore City Public Schools has experienced many high-profile murders and acts of violence over the last year and the majority took place at the entrance, parking lot, athletic facilities, or in the communities surrounding the school. investments in AI based weapons detection does not prevent this.

Educators, students and community members agree that relationships and well resourced mental health and violence trauma informed interruptor programs are better than any AI weapons detection system. These systems, including metal detectors are only as effective as the procedures and relationships that are implemented in the school. In Baltimore City leaders need to invest in evidence-based practices of more mental health support like school counselors and social workers in every school, not throwing away money to new technology with no proof of efficacy.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Teachers Union urges the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee to broaden their definition of school safety measures to include prevention and ensure that MCSS has the capacity to adequately administer and evaluate SB 127. Maryland desperately needs to invest in the safety of our schools. Maryland students and educators deserve the most effective and researched based strategies. Firearm detection platforms do not meet these criteria. **BTU opposes Senate Bill 127.**

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<sup>2</sup> Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. (2016). Comprehensive Report on School Safety Technology. National Institute of Justice. <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/comprehensive-report-school-safety-technology>

<sup>3</sup> Elwood, Karina. "Schools are hoping AI-powered weapons detectors can improve school safety." *Washington Post*, 11 June 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/06/11/school-weapons-detectors-ai-virginia/>. Accessed 18 January 2024.

# **SB 127 Firearm Detection Platform - School Shield.**

Uploaded by: Cathy Wright

Position: INFO



**Senate Bill 127**  
**Maryland Center for School Safety – Firearm Detection Platforms – Evaluation**  
**Informational Only**

Each year, our nation's schools are entrusted to provide a safe environment for approximately 55 million elementary and secondary school students in public, private, parochial, and independent schools. Families and communities expect schools to keep their children safe from threats – no task is more important than creating a secure learning environment for America's youth. The Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association (MSRPA) wishes to commend you on your efforts to provide and enhance security for Maryland's students and in particular, SB 127 Maryland Firearm Detection Platform Act.

May we also introduce **School Shield**, the National Rifle Association's commitment to protecting Maryland students and staff.

School Shield was introduced in 2012 as an initiative focused on improving school security to help prevent national tragedies at schools. Recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach, School Shield addresses the many facets of school security, including best practices in infrastructure, technology, personnel, training, and policy. A cornerstone of School Shield is the Security Assessor Training, which seeks to facilitate a partnership between schools and local stakeholders by teaching them how to analyze a school's physical security, communications systems, and overall preparedness.

A proven and effective way to enhance security in schools is to conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment. The School Shield's Security Assessor Training provides an all-inclusive approach to analyzing a school's climate, physical security, communications systems, and overall preparedness. A vulnerability assessment highlights and reinforces what a school is doing right to keep students and staff safe and highlights potential areas requiring improvement. To see reviews and comments about School Shield's assessor training from previous community stakeholders, please link to:

<https://nraschoolshield.org/training>.

The School Shield professional consultation is provided at no charge. Through grants from The NRA Foundation, funds can be made available for schools to complete projects and activities that improve school security. Please encourage your communities to learn more about real solutions at <https://www.nationalschoolshield.org/> or by calling 844-467-7723.

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**SB 127 letter of information.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kimberly Buckheit

Position: INFO

<b>Bill:</b>	Senate Bill 127	<b>Date:</b>	January 24, 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Maryland Center for School Safety - Firearm Detection Platforms - Evaluation	<b>Committee:</b>	Education, Energy, and the Environment
<b>Position:</b>	Letter of Information	<b>Contact:</b>	Kim Buckheit <a href="mailto:kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov">kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov</a> 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of information for Senate Bill 127. MCSS remains committed to assisting Local Education Agencies (LEA) in the implementation of a layered approach to school safety. The inclusion of emerging technologies is one element of a well designed school safety plan.

Senate Bill 127 requires MCSS to conduct an evaluation of and make recommendations for *firearm detection platforms*. To conduct a comprehensive evaluation of these systems and make practical recommendations, MCSS must not rely solely upon vendor documentation of effectiveness. In evaluating these systems it will be vital to independently (1) review system manufacturer literature; (2) review existing software security and privacy documentation and audits; (3) conduct independent laboratory testing; and (4) conduct operational testing. It is important to note that regardless of the evaluation results, some systems may not work reliably in all real-life situations and not all technology or systems are best for all schools. Therefore, it will be crucial that we include potential limitations when recommending these systems.

In order to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of this nature, MCSS would require the assistance of an impartial technical research organization as MCSS does not possess the necessary technical staff to perform such an extensive system assessment. Furthermore, unless system manufacturers offer their products for testing at no cost, MCSS will need to procure each system that is tested.

Additionally, maintaining prevention and mitigation programs and personnel, while integrating a firearm detection platform may be financially burdensome to some LEAs. Firearm detection platforms rely upon the use of cameras within a school and for effective performance, each camera must operate at a minimum of Full High Definition (FHD 1080P) resolution. Not all cameras installed prior to 2020 meet this (FHD or higher) minimum standard thus, some systems may require LEAs to upgrade existing cameras that fall below the threshold (HD or lower) in order to implement a firearm detection platform. In addition to upgrades of existing cameras, it may be necessary to install additional cameras, particularly on the exterior of buildings, further increasing unanticipated costs. Although, LEAs would be able to procure



recommended systems through the Safe Schools Fund. The Safe Schools Fund<sup>1</sup> has been funded with \$600,000 dollars (\$25,000 per school system) for the last three years, which would not be enough to fund system-wide implementation of such systems.

Finally, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for school safety are rapidly evolving. To limit the risk of LEAs acquiring outdated systems, the ongoing evaluation and recommendation of real-time video surveillance systems that use artificial intelligence or other mechanisms to identify firearms and alert first responders is necessary. This involves staying up-to-date on industry developments and being mindful of the initial publication year of the required recommendation report, particularly if a firearm detection platform is procured after that year. As always, MCSS reinforces the need for schools to continue allocating resources to support layered school safety efforts related to the prevention and mitigation of violent behaviors.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider this information as you consider Senate Bill 127.

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<sup>1</sup> The Safe Schools Fund includes funding that is separately allocated for School Resource Officers and adequate law enforcement coverage in the amount of \$10MM and \$600,000 for the categories eligible under Ed. Art. §7-1512(f).