**Arming School Personnel Consensus Packet**

**Due Date: March 21, 2021**

**Online Report Form:** [**https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1a\_YJIdYooqK-7rccjLVcgFrmk6EyuelXJ0xShyaj6jM/edit**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1a_YJIdYooqK-7rccjLVcgFrmk6EyuelXJ0xShyaj6jM/edit)

**Questions: Tracey MacKay,** **tdebilmac@gmail.com**

Dear Ohio Leagues,

The Arming School Personnel Study was born out of a question from a Hudson League board member at the 2019 Ohio state convention. “Why are Ohio schools allowed to arm their teachers without informing the community?” The short answer is that there is a loophole in Ohio law that allows school boards to arm school personnel. Informing the public is at the discretion of the district. This study addresses some of the issues surrounding these decisions.

The ASP Study Committee consists of educators who have spent their careers creating safe learning environments for students, a psychologist dedicated to children’s mental health issues, a high school student who shared her first hand experience of lockdown drills, members of Moms Demand Action, and an ASP member who subscribed to the Buckeye Firearm Association to learn gun owner and weapons trainer perspectives.

We had many discussions disseminating the research and crafting the consensus questions. We took a very big topic, condensed it into five categories, and stayed within the boundaries of our study overview. We determined that the Arming School Personnel Study should center around five categories: Decision Making; Cost and Liability; The Armed Personnel, Checks, and Training; Storage; and Perceptions of Safety in Schools.

The singular influence for each of these five categories is the environment of the school. Environment includes whether the school is rural, suburban or urban; the age, size and design of the building; the grades taught and how crowded the classrooms are;the adherence and practice of the school safety plan; and training to use the facility to protect students, teachers and staff. We have added a ‘Summary - Environment of Schools’ to the ASP consensus packet. You will find links to research for safe school design for your consideration when answering the ASP study consensus questions. The environment of the school cannot be separated out but must be considered in each question.

The original study motion:

*“Moves consideration of a new study to assess the impact on the health and safety of students, school personnel and communities when school personnel are armed while on school grounds. Rationale includes a potential increase in risk of harm if school personnel are armed. Further, school boards are allowed to arm school personnel without informing the community. Our scope would include risk of harm to students, school personnel and communities, mishandling of firearms, training, cost, accountability and liability issues. LWV Hudson will take the lead for the study. “*

The Arming School Personnel Study Committee thanks you for your time and feedback.

The Arming School Personnel Committee:

Tracey Mackay ASP Study Committee Chair

Karen Leith LWVO State Liaison to the Committee

Carol O'Connell

Emily Lauletta LWVH Intern

Arlene Grohl

Joan Seldon

Kay Clark

Ann Hassenpflug

Sachi Sanghavi

Sheila King

Inge Orendt

Valerie Lee

The Committee consisted of educators from all levels, a high school student, a college student, librarians, business professionals, both social and clinical psychologists, mothers, grandparents, a professional in STEM.

Leagues represented: Hudson, Akron Area, Dayton