



**State Board of Education Resolution
Commemorating Young People Lost to Gun Violence
SR20-13**

WHEREAS, gun violence is a national pressing health emergency as individuals with guns injure more than 100,000 people a year and kill more than 30,000 a year through homicides, suicides, and accidental deaths according to the Center for Disease Control;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is facing a fifteen percent increase in homicides so far this year relative to last year;

WHEREAS, according to 2018 FBI data, the District has the highest number of police officers per capita than other large cities in America; and whereas there have been calls to redirect portions of DC's Metropolitan Police Department budget to critical services and resources, like better employment opportunities and social-emotional supports, that research suggests reduces crime;

WHEREAS, thirty-seven teenagers and children have been killed in the District this year;

WHEREAS, their loss is felt throughout the communities and schools across the District of which they were a vital part;

WHEREAS, *The Washington Post* reported that a 2019 citywide attendance report by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education found that school attendance is directly affected when a violent crime occurs near a student's home; and,

WHEREAS, a 2016 study of Chicago public school students found that violent crimes negatively affect students' academic performance and that students exposed to violence in third grade have lower academic performance than their peers by the time they reach 11th grade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education mourns with the families, friends and communities of those lost to gun violence; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education calls on the Mayor and DC Council to take immediate steps to address gun violence comprehensively in the District.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Wattenberg', is written over a horizontal line.

Ruth Wattenberg, President

10/21/2020
Date