

News Release

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Contact: Kristal Griffith

Email: kgriffith@naspa.org

Phone: (202) 265-7500 ext. 1177

New report reviews state legislation and policy around guns on college campuses

NASPA and ECS release joint publication

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Gun Violence Archive documented more than 320 mass shootings across the United States in 2015. As of October of the same year, 23 shootings took place on college and university campuses. Although policy proposals on firearms at the federal level are met by gridlock in the United States Congress, many states have taken action on whether to allow guns on college campuses either by state legislation or by higher education system policies. NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and Education Commission of the States release a new report *Guns on Campus: The Architecture and Momentum of State Policy Action* that highlights these state policies.

“Some advocates are calling for stricter regulation on the acquisition of firearms, whereas others are proposing bans on certain weapons altogether,” say the report authors. “Still others are calling for legal protection for gun owners to carry weapons in public spaces.”

As the report outlines, nine states allow concealed carry permit holders to bring guns onto college and university campuses. In contrast, 21 states have effectively banned firearms on campuses. The report highlights where each state stands on the issue. It also offers considerations for campus and policy leaders on topics like basic training on firearm use, gun licensure agreements and consequences of conceal and carry laws for first responders.

“Expanding the presence of guns in the spaces where members of the higher education community live, learn, and work is not without implications for institutional policy and practice,” say the report authors. “We hope the analysis and discussion in this issue brief supports meaningful dialogue on a critically important policy issue that affects the safety and well-being of our campus communities.”

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Education Commission of the States is the trusted source for comprehensive knowledge and unbiased resources on education policy issues ranging from early learning through postsecondary education.