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Due to the alarming rise of incidents of shootings in our schools many discussions are taking place to prepare for, survive, or limit senseless deaths. The time is at hand for school districts to review existing hazard policies and wherever possible provide enhancements. A good place to start in our schools is with the Eddie Eagle Program.

The purpose of the Eddie Eagle Program is to promote the protection and safety of children -- not to teach whether guns are good or bad. Parents are responsible for teaching values and good judgment to their children.

Federal officials estimate that there are over 200 million guns in the United States. Guns are in approximately one-half of all American households. Roughly 1/3 are shotguns, 1/3 rifles and 1/3 handguns.

Whether or not the students' families own guns, there is a great chance that children will come in contact with a gun at some time during their young lives.

Relatives and neighbors own guns -- often hidden -- but the possibility exists that children may find them. From their earliest awareness, children are exposed to guns through cartoons, television shows and movies. Their curiosity is aroused.

The Gadsden Independent School District is committed to enact any changes to our policies and procedures to enhance student and employee safety.

Submitted by:

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