



## Portal additions put McCollum's Year 2 plan on ideal track

SPORTS, 1B

# IOWA CITY Press-Citizen

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## Is gun violence rare in Iowa City?

### Police responded to 8 shootings in 2025

**Jessica Rish**  
Iowa City Press-Citizen  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Iowa City community is still reeling after the recent mass shooting during a time when gun violence has

touched the eastern Iowa town repeatedly over the last 18 months.

A shooting left five injured in the early morning hours of Sunday, April 19 in Iowa City's Pedestrian Mall, leaving one in critical condition. Three of the injured were University of Iowa students.

While the federal government lacks a widely accepted definition of "mass shooting," the Gun Violence Archive, a national nonprofit group, identifies a mass shooting as an incident where "...a

minimum of four victims shot, either injured or killed, not including any shooter who may also have been killed or injured in the incident."

According to the Iowa City Police Department's 2025 annual report, police recorded and responded to eight shootings, which included six wounded and one unsolved homicide. The local police department seized 74 guns in 2025. In 2024, there were seven documented shootings and the ICPD seized a total of

53 firearms.

Nationally, 2025 shooting deaths and injuries plummeted to some of their lowest levels on record after gun violence spiked during the COVID-19 Pandemic, according to a report from the Trace. At least 40,000 people were shot in 2025, more than 110 people per day, which didn't include death by suicide.

In 2026, the Gun Violence Archive

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Community members gather for a vigil April 20 held for victims of an early morning shooting on the pedestrian mall the previous day in downtown Iowa City. The vigil began at Trinity Episcopal Church and attendees walked to the scene of the incident. JULIA HANSEN/IOWA CITY PRESS-CITIZEN

## 'We're here for you'

### Iowa City residents pray for healing, unity after Ped Mall shooting

**Jessica Rish** Iowa City Press-Citizen | USA TODAY NETWORK

Members of the Iowa City community turned to prayer and unity less than 48 hours after a fight broke out in downtown Iowa City, sparking gunfire and several injuries.

The community peace vigil, Iowa City faith leaders and the local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, was a response to the shooting that left five injured, three of whom are University of Iowa students, early Sunday, April 19, in Iowa City's Pedestrian Mall.

One of the wounded remains in critical condition, while two others were stable. In a Monday, April 20 update, the Iowa City Police Department noted that two of the injured people were no longer in the hospital. No arrests have been made.

"Gun violence prevention is a multifaceted effort, but I'm confident," said Moms Demand Action Johnson County volunteer Temple Hiatt, who is a victim

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## Schools sue Iowa over \$18M in lost funding

### Cedar Rapids asks judge to reverse decision

**Samantha Hernandez**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cedar Rapids schools officials are asking a judge to reverse an Iowa Department of Education decision that stripped the district of millions of dollars in state grant funding for at-risk student programs, according to a recently filed lawsuit.

The state Department of Education investigated allegations pertaining to the misuse of funds awarded to the district for its "at-risk, alternative school and returning dropouts and dropout prevention programs" for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 fiscal years, according to the April 13 lawsuit.

After completing its review, the department recommended the state's school budget review committee "award a negative modified supplemental amount" equal to what the district received in previous years.

The school budget review committee approved a negative amount of \$9 million a year for the current school year and 2026-27, according to the committee's March hearing update report presented to the Iowa Board of Education April 16. The total will cost Cedar Rapids more than \$18 million.

Cedar Rapids Community School District "had no authority to request (the funds) because its program plan did not meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 257.38," the committee's report states.

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