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THE LIMITS OF LOCKDOWNS



Research shows mixed results as schools practice for shootings

People are brought out of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School after a shooting on Feb. 14, 2018, in Parkland, Florida. More schools nationwide began practicing lockdown drills after the Parkland shooting. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

James Densley
 Metropolitan State University | THE CONVERSATION

There have been 63 school shootings – meaning any time there is gunfire on a school campus – so far in 2026. • They happen so often that preparing for one has become normal. Students as young as 4 years old routinely practice for the possibility of a school shooting with lockdown drills – typically, hiding in the corner of a dark classroom, behind a locked door.

Pauls Valley High School in Pauls, Oklahoma, went into lockdown on April 7, after an armed gunman fired shots inside the building. Kirk Moore, the school's principal, tackled the gunman and got shot in the leg.

The lockdown and Moore's heroism clearly prevented any further violence in this rare school shooting situation with a positive ending. But by and large, do lockdowns typically work to keep students safe?

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Volunteer students wearing makeup to simulate injuries participate in a school shooting and mass evacuation drill at Lincoln Middle School in 2007 in Alameda, California. So far, the available research shows mixed evidence on whether shooting drills help students feel more prepared or scare them. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Shooting suspect killed near White House

Secret Service reports bystander hurt by gunfire

Zac Anderson, Bart Jansen and Anthony Thompson
 USA TODAY

A gunman opened fire outside the White House during the evening of May 23 before the Secret Service fatally shot the suspect, the agency said.

A bystander also was struck by gunfire, according to the Secret Service. No officers were injured. President Donald Trump was in the White House during the May 23 incident but was unharmed.

The shooting took place shortly after 6 p.m. near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House

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Lawmakers to jumpstart bills to aid school staffers

Molly A. Wallace
 Medill Illinois News Bureau

CHICAGO — This time every year, Sandra Taylor finds herself in a predicament that is not unusual for people in her profession. Like most other school support staff, her paychecks stop once summer break begins. To prepare, she and her coworkers rely on food pantries and grocery sales to stock up on household essentials.

"Bills do not stop because we're not working, you know? So we've got to find a way," said Taylor, 57, a food service worker at Galesburg High School in Knox County, who said she has worked for the district for 20 years.

The Illinois General Assembly is considering helping educational support staff workers like Taylor whose incomes dry up each summer by allowing them to collect unemployment benefits between academic terms beginning on June 1.

The measures creating the Unemployment Equity Act – House Bill 4416 and Senate Bill 3286 – stalled in committee, but the bill's union backers

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