

An Open Letter on Behalf of Independent Schools of New England,

We, the heads of independent schools, comprising 176 schools in the New England region, stand in solidarity with our students and with the families of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The heart of our nation has been broken yet again by another mass shooting at an American school. We offer our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who died and are grieving for the loss of life that occurred.

We join with our colleagues in public, private, charter, independent, and faith-based schools demanding meaningful action to keep our students safe from gun violence on campuses and beyond. Many of our students, graduates, and families have joined the effort to ensure that this issue stays at the forefront of the national dialogue. We are all inspired by the students who have raised their voices to demand change. As school leaders we give our voices to this call for action. We come together out of compassion, responsibility, and our commitment to educate our children free of fear and violence.

As school leaders, we pledge to do all in our power to keep our students safe. We call upon all elected representatives - each member of Congress, the President, and all others in positions of power at the governmental and private-sector level – to take action in making schools less vulnerable to violence, including sensible regulation of firearms.

We are adding our voices to this dialogue as a demonstration to our students of our own commitment to doing better, to making their world safer. Our children’s safety is more important than partisan politics and we pledge to work with any and all who share our commitment.

We stand together for our children and our children’s children to ensure that our country comes together for their right to learn and grow in safe communities nationwide. We know that action is needed now.

Respectfully,

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| Dr. Brian D. Bloomfield Head of School The Academy at Charlemont | Tom Trigg Head of School Cape Cod Academy | David Stettler Head of School The Fessenden School | Thomas J. Doherty III Headmaster Malden Catholic | Diana Owen Head of School Pine Point School | Martha Torrence Head of School Summit Montessori School |
| Molly Martins President The Academy at Penguin Hall | Christopher D. Day Head of School Cardigan Mountain School | Maura Spignesi Head of School Fontbonne Academy | Fanning M. Hearon III Head of School Maple Street School | Dr. Timothy M. Johnson Head of School Pingree School | John H. Quirk Head of School Tabor Academy |
| Melissa P. Earls Head of School Academy Hill School | Stephen Wilkins Head of School The Carroll School | Ben Kennedy Head of School Friends Academy | Arvind S. Grover Head of School Meadowbrook School of Weston | Margaret Bagge Head of School Pioneer Valley Montessori School | Christian B. Elliot Head of School Tenacre Country Day |
| Courtney Dickinson Founder & Head of School The Acera School | Dr. Peter F. Folan President Catholic Memorial School | Rabbi Marc Baker Head of School Gann Academy | Joshua Abrams Head of School Meridian Academy | J. Timothy Richards Head of School Pomfret School | Don Grace Head of School Thacher Montessori School |
| Nicole A. DuFauchard Head of School The Advent School | Isabel “Charlie” Spencer Head of School The Center School | Dr. Jochen Schnack OSR Head of School German International School Boston | John Kaufman Head of School Middlebridge School | Vince Watchhorn Head of School Providence Country Day School | Ted Koskores Headmaster Thayer Academy |
| Susanna H. Thompson Interim Head of School Amherst Montessori School | Lance Conrad, Ed.D. Head of School Chapel Hill-Chaucary Hall School | David Liebmann Head of School Glen Urquhart School | Kathy Giles Head of School Middlesex School | Emily Jones Head of School The Putney School | Dr. Mary Halpin Carter Head of School The Derryfield School |
| Martina B. Albright, Ph.D. Director Apple Orchard School | Gretchen Larkin Head of School Charles River School | Ralph Wales Head of School The Gordon School | Todd B. Bland Head of School Milton Academy | Michael Barclay Head of School Quest Montessori School | Walter Hubley Head of School The Woodward School |
| Chris Williamson Interim Head Applewild School | Tamara Schurdak Head of School The Chestnut Hill School | Peter H. Quimby Head of School The Governor’s Academy | Julia Heaton Head of School Miss Hall’s School | Mallory Rome Head of School The Rashi School | Peter Saliba Head of School Tilton School |
| Amy Gold Head of School Arthur J. Epstein Hillel School | Jeffrey Clark Head of School Clark School | Michael Junkins Faculty Administrator Great Barrington Rudolph Steiner School | Karen E. Bohlin, EdD Head of School Montrose School | Ned Parsons Head of School The Rivers School | Susan Diller Head of School Touchstone Community School |
| Marshall W. Carter Head of School Atrium School | Christine Lindeman Head of School The Common School | Temba Maqubela Headmaster Groton School | Ed Hudner Head of School Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center | James Tracy Head of School Rocky Hill School | Timothy Delehaunty Head of School Tower School |
| James Hickey, Ph.D Headmaster Austin Preparatory School | William Wharton Headmaster The Commonwealth School | Paul Horovitz Head of School Harborlight Montessori | Eileen McLaughlin Head of School Mount Alvernia High School | Kerry P. Brennan Headmaster The Roxbury Latin School | Linda Echt Interim Head of School Tremont School |
| Trey Cassidy Head of School Bancroft School | Dan Corley Head of School Community Preparatory School | Frances Cameron Administrative Chair The Hartsbrook School | Danielle Heard Head of School Nashoba Brooks School | Marie P. Leary Head of School The Sage School | Rosann Whiting President Ursuline Academy |
| Ian Bickford Provost and Vice President Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock | Rick Hardy Head of School Concord Academy | Geraldine Kline Head of School High Mowing School | Harry Lynch Headmaster The Newman School | Alex Zequeira Headmaster Saint John’s High School | Mara D. White Director of School Waldorf High School of Massachusetts Bay |
| Conrad Wildsmith Head of School Bay Farm Montessori Academy | David Manzo President Cotting School | Ed Chase Head of School Hillside School | Barbara Rogers R.S.C.J Headmistress Newton Country Day School of the Sacred Heart | Tom Nunan, Jr. Head of School Saint Joseph Prep | Robert Schiappacasse School Director The Waldorf School of Lexington |
| Cindy Laba and Marsha Feinberg Founders Beacon Academy | Margaret H. Lee and Catherine E. Pollock Co-Heads of School Cushing Academy | Phil Peck Head of School Holderness School | Beth Black Head of School Newton Montessori School | Jennifer Borman Head of School School One | Antonio Viva Head of School Walnut Hill School for the Arts |
| Peter Hutton Head of School Beaver Country Day School | Katherine L. Bradley Head of School Dana Hall School | Laura Gauld Head of School and President Hyde School | Catherine Hall Head of School Noble and Greenough School | Mark Stanek Head of School Shady Hill School | Timothy Bakland Head of School Waring School |
| Brendan W. Largay Head of School Belmont Day School | Allison D. Webster Head of School Dedham Country Day School | Donna Milani Luther Head of School INLY School | Peter Fayroian Head of School Northfield Mount Hermon | Rebecca Lurie Head of School Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston | Teri Schrader Head of School Watkinson School |
| Rick Melvoin Head of School Belmont Hill School | Margarita Curtis Head of School Deerfield Academy | Richard Uffers Head of School International School of Boston | Elizabeth Pasciocco President Notre Dame Academy | Bill Perrine Head of School Oak Meadow School | Geoffrey Wagg Head of School Waynflete School |
| Christopher H. Wilson Head of School The Bement School | Corrine Perkins Headmistress Delphi Academy of Boston | Anne Murphy President Jackson Walnut Park Schools | Bill Perrine Head of School Oak Meadow School | Gigi DiBello Head of School Sophia Academy | Allison Gaines Pell Head of School The Wheeler School |
| Pieter Mulder Head of School Berkshire School | Joseph Perry Head of School Derby Academy | Susie Tanchel Head of School Jewish Community Day School | Margaret Douglas Head of School Odyssey Day School | David Tinagero Headmaster St. Andrew’s School | Timothy Breen Head of School The White Mountain School |
| Bonnie J. Ricci Head of School Birches School | Brad Bates Head of School Dublin School | Andrea Katzman Head of School Jewish Community Day School of RI | Sarah Herman Head of School Our Sisters’ School | Alix Callen Head of School St. George’s School | Brian P. Easler Head of School Wilbraham & Monson Academy |
| Grace Cotter Regan President Boston College High School | Dr. Peter J. (P.J) McDonald Headmaster Eagle Hill School | Christoph S. Cheney Head of School Kents Hill School | Cynthia A. Harmon Head of School The Park School | Edward P. Hardiman, Ph. D. Headmaster St. John’s Prep | Robert W. Hill, III Head of School The Williston Northampton School |
| Dr. Ari M. Betof Head of School Boston University Academy | Andrew Chase Headmaster Eaglebrook School | Mike Schafer Head of School Kimball Union Academy | Tracy Bradley Head of Schools Park Street School/Park Street Kids | John Warren Head of School St. Mark’s School | Sarah Pelmas Head of School The Winsor School |
| Judith Guild Head of School Brimmer and May School | The Rev. John H. Finley IV Head of School Epiphany School | Renee DuChaine-Farkes Head of School Kingsley Montessori School | Rob Kelley Head of School The Pennfield School | Mike Hirschfeld Head of School St. Paul’s School | Edward A. Cooper Head of School Wolfeboro |
| Darren Nicholas Principal British International School of Boston | Annamarie Quezada Interim Head of School Esperanza Academy | Robert J. Broudo President and Headmaster Landmark School | John G. Palfrey Head of School Phillips Academy | Scott Landry Acting President St. Paul’s Choir School | Walter Hubley Head of School The Woodward School |
| John Packard Head of School Brooks School | Moira Kelly Executive Director and President Explo School | Amy Carroll Head of School Laurel School | Lisa MacFarlane Principal Phillips Exeter Academy | William L. Burke III Headmaster St. Sebastian’s School | Ron Cino Head of School Worcester Academy |
| Laura Caron Head of School Brookwood School | Rob Wells Head of School Falmouth Academy | Dan Scheibe Head of School Lawrence Academy | Betsy Sargent & Barbara McFall Heads of School The Phoenix School | Houry Boyamian, M.Ed. Principal St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School | Brother Daniel Skala, C.F.X. Headmaster Xaverian Brothers High School |
| Rebecca T. Upham Head of School Buckingham Browne and Nichols School | Robert J. Gustavson, Jr. Head of School Fay School | Michael McCord Head of School The Learning Project | John “Muddy” Waters Head of School The Pike School | Sally L. Mixsell Head of School Stoneleigh-Burnham School | |
| Franny Shuker-Haines Director Buxton School | Edward Kuh Head of School Fayerweather Street School | Deanne Benson Head of School Lesley Ellis School | Susannah Wells Head of School Pine Cobble School | | |
| Chris Gorycki Interim Head of School Cambridge Friends School | Jerry Ward Headmaster The Fenn School | Aline Gery Head of School Lexington Montessori School | | | |
| Dr. Ingrid W. Tucker Head of School Cambridge Montessori School | | Suzanne Fogarty Head of School Lincoln School | | | |
| Jane Moulding Head of School The Cambridge School of Weston | | | | | |