

*A Consortium of Independent Schools  
of Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont*

February 27, 2018

As the country reels from the recent tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida (one of 18 school shootings in 2018) we, Heads of Schools at independent schools throughout Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont, join the voices calling for swift and permanent legislative action to keep our students and *all students safe from gun violence*. Our students, teachers, staff, and their families should count on that as a right.

To that end, we vow to support and empower the students, parents, teachers, and staff members who have joined the nationwide movement calling for stricter gun laws. Moreover, we join them in their outrage. The abject terror and grief that each of the recent shootings has caused, the loss of innocent lives, the levels of fear and frustration climbing in our own communities and in the country as a whole, cause us to boldly demand that our representatives take meaningful action to prevent further tragedies from occurring.

We call upon you to have the courage to step up and keep every single child, in every city, village and neighborhood school safe from being shot. We call upon you to be the moral compass by which we are able to continue to set the course for these children. We call upon you to take action toward stricter gun laws now.

With urgency,  
Heads of School

Brian Bloomfield, Academy at Charlemont  
Melissa Earls, Academy Hill School  
Christopher Wilson, The Bement School  
Isabel Spencer, The Center School  
Christine Lindeman, The Common School  
Nick Perry, The Grammar School  
Caryl Frankenburger, The Greenwood School  
Tamara Mount, Hilltop Montessori School  
John Friends and Heather Leeds, Full Circle School  
Ellen Frank and Deborah Bromberg Seltzer, Lander Grinspoon Academy  
Sue Wells, Pine Cobble School  
Margaret Bagge, Pioneer Valley Montessori School  
Sally Mixsell, Stoneleigh-Burnham School