

Jimmy Fallon to Parkland students: 'Don't let anything stop you'

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SUNRISE, Fla. – From Tennessee to California, from Maine to Texas, senior high school students are participating in tradition that has been honored by parents, administrators, politicians and the community throughout generations. Yet, for the first time in history, more seniors are not walking across the stage to accept a diploma. This year, the class of 2018 has lost more students to school gun violence and neighborhood gun violence than previous years and for too many parents, listening to Pomp and Circumstance has new and grave meanings.



Graduating seniors at the Florida high school where a gunman killed 17 people in February received diplomas Sunday and heard from surprise commencement speaker Jimmy Fallon, who urged them to move forward and “don’t let anything stop you.”

Four families received diplomas on behalf of loved ones slain

in the attack that gave rise to a campaign by teens for gun control. Principal Ty Thompson underscored the honors for the dead students in a tweet. "Remember those not with us, and celebrate all the successes the Class of 2018 has brought to the community and the world!" Thompson tweeted.

The "Tonight Show" host offered similar praise, saying, "You are not just the future – you are the present. Keep changing the world. Keep making us proud."

In a video of his address, Fallon joked that the students "won't be classmates any more. You'll be adults who will Facebook search each other at 2 in the morning for the next 10 years."

Turning more serious, he said: "First thing is this: When something feels hard, remember that it gets better. Choose to move forward. Don't let anything stop you." He thanked them for their bravery and activism.

While the Broward County School System asked that the media and press respect this emotional moment for all of the Majorie Stoneman Douglas High School students, family and community, the district has been forth coming in publishing, via Twitter, steps that will be taken to make every school in the district safer for the upcoming year beginning with the hiring of an independent risk assessment agency that will enable each school to know where their individual strengths and weaknesses are. "The independent security firm will be assessing the District's policies, trainings, and security staffing models to provide security recommendations for security enhancements."

Date	City	Deaths	Injuries	Description
4/21/1994	Nashville	1	0	14-year-old Jeremy Bryant, killed 13-year-old Terrence Murray, in music class at J.T. Moore Middle School.
11/5/1995	Lynnsville	2	1	Richland High School shooting: 17-year-old James Reuse, killed a student and teacher at Richland High School and seriously wounded another teacher with a rifle.
5/19/1998	Fayetteville	1	0	18-year-old Jacob Lee Davis, shot 18-year-old Robert Cross, at Lincoln County High School in a dispute over a girl. Davis received a life sentence on July 29, 1999.
3/2/2005	Dover	1	0	14-year-old Jason Clinard, killed his bus driver, 47-year-old Joyce Gregory, as she stopped to pick him up. Gregory had earlier reported Clinard for using snuff on the school bus. Clinard was given a life sentence.
11/8/2005	Jackson	1	2	Campbell County High School shooting: Inside the Campbell County High School office, 15-year-old Kenneth Bartley, shot the school principal, Gary Seale. He shot assistant principals Ken Bruce and Jim Pierce. Bruce later died from his wound. Bartley was sentenced to forty-five years in prison with chance of parole after twenty-nine years.
2/4/2008	Memphis	0	1	At Hamilton High School, a student shot a 16-year-old student in the leg during a classroom argument over rap music. The victim's injury was not life-threatening.
2/11/2008	Memphis	0	1	Following a feud that started off campus earlier in the week, a 19-year-old senior was shot by a 17-year-old sophomore during a gym class held in the cafeteria with about 75 other students at Mitchell High School, before handing the gun to a coach making no attempt to flee. The victim suffered at least two gunshot wounds and was in critical condition, the suspected shooter was in custody. "He walked up to him, shot him, and made a statement to the coach that 'It's over now,'" said principal Daniel Ware.
8/21/2008	Knoxville	1	0	Central High School, 15-year-old Jamar Siler killed 15-year-old Ryan McDonald. In 2011, Siler was sentenced to thirty years in prison after pleading guilty to murder in a plea agreement.
8/16/2012	Memphis	0	2	Two Hamilton High School students were wounded in the parking lot of the school. The attack was believed to be gang-related.
1/9/2014	Jackson	0	1	A 16-year-old student was charged with bringing a gun to school at Liberty Technology Magnet High School and shooting a classmate in the thigh. The incident occurred outside the front of the school.
1/28/2014	Nashville	0	1	One student was shot in the leg in an apparent altercation over a gambling debt at Tennessee State University.
10/22/2015	Nashville	1	3	One person was killed and three others were wounded in a shooting at an outdoor courtyard at Tennessee State University. The shooting may have stemmed from an argument over a dice game. A suspect has not been identified or arrested.

Tennessee recently enacted the S.A.V.E. Act or the *Schools Against Violence in Education* [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-(801-814)]

The SAVE Act establishes “specific and consistent requirements for L.E.As (Local Education Agencies) in providing a safe school environment. The act also establishes a state-level safety team to provide guidance to school districts in their efforts to address, plan, and implement a comprehensive school safety planning strategy.”

While there hasn't been a mass school shooting in Tennessee since 2014, there is definitely a reason to be concerned about the growing number of shooting events happening on school campuses around the country.



The SAVE Act Compliance Instrument developed by the state of Tennessee provides a framework for emergency planning aimed at bringing together all available resources and stakeholders to provide for the safety of all of Tennessee's students.

The [Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operation Plans](#) developed by FEMA, local emergency operational management organizations and the Department of Education is designed to provide LEAs guidelines to keep their children safe from threats (human-caused emergencies such as crime and violence) and hazards (natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and accidents).

In collaboration with their local government and community partners, schools can take steps to plan for these potential emergencies through the creation of a school Emergency Operations Plan (school EOP).

The guide is organized in four sections:

1. The principles of school emergency management planning.
2. A process for developing, implementing, and continually refining a school EOP with community partners (e.g., first responders and emergency management personnel) at the school building level.
3. A discussion of the form, function, and content of school EOPs.
4. "A Closer Look," which considers key topics that support

school emergency planning, including addressing an active shooter, school climate, psychological first aid, and information-sharing.

Through prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery the new SAVE Act is designed to offer schools more ways to protect students.