

Teacher Shot By Student

By: Taylor Yeager

In Newport News, Virginia, a 6-year-old boy shot his teacher at school on Friday, January 6th. Sadly, in America school shootings are very common with roughly 300 school shootings in 2022. This amount has increased rapidly in America over the years, and most likely will continue to do so. Although adults can legally purchase a licensed gun, no child should have



access to it. To prevent cases like this from occurring all guns should be in a locked safe, preventing anyone but the owner from having access. According to KFF (a non-profit organization focusing on health issues) "Virginia has a child access to firearms prevention law, but no self-storage or gun lock requirement, and there are regulations on assault weapons." Unfortunately, even when there are laws and regulations to prevent events like this they still can occur.

Richneck Elementary School's first-grade teacher is now in the hospital because of her 6-year-old student. According to CNN "the boy took the firearm from and brought it to school in his backpack Friday before allegedly opening fire in a classroom." Once police arrived after Abigail Zwerner had been shot, the boy was being restrained by a school employee. According to CNN, the police said the boy was "combative and struck the employee restraining him and officers took control, escorting him out the building and into the police car." Although only a child committed this crime charges still can be made. The boy "is unlikely to be charged, but his parents could be criminally culpable depending on if they properly secured the weapon" (NBC News). Also from NBC News and Newport News Police, "officials haven't specified how the boy got hold of it (the gun) or if it was safely secured." As stated above Virginia doesn't have a law that specifies how to secure guns in a home but there is a misdemeanor law to keep children under 14 from having access to firearms. The trial will take a while to appear in court as evidence is still being collected about the case.

Fortunately, only one person was injured in this shooting. Teacher Abigail Zwerner, 25, was shot in the chest by her student. Zwerner and other Richneck teachers have shared concerns and fears about the child's behavior who according to the New York Post "was known to throw furniture and other objects in the classroom, once wrote a note to a teacher in which he told her he hated her, wanted to set her on fire to kill her." Apparently, school administrators have been avoiding this problem and told the teacher to drop it. Although the boy had been a problem for teachers and staff, students were always protected by the staff and the main concern. After being shot Zwerner had allegedly sent her students out of the classroom and made sure they were all safe before trying to help herself. Thankfully she was not seriously injured and has been recovering in the hospital. This event may never have occurred if the school didn't ignore this student's behavioral problems. It was revealed that at least one school official had been alerted that the boy may have brought a weapon and his backpack was searched hours before the meeting, but nothing was found. This incident could've been much

worse, and school authorities should've been able to stop this. School shootings should be more preventable as they occur so often.