The Quality Education Project (QEP) stands in full support of the students, teachers, parents, and other advocates who are walking out of school and engaging in other acts of protest after the Parkland, Florida school shooting. As student-led symbolic acts of protest, we support these initiatives that aim to protect all students and teachers from preventable acts of gun violence.

At the same time, we do not support arming teachers or increasing the militarization of our schools. Instead, we fully support actions that challenge the efforts of the NRA to oppose gun control. We support and call for legislation that bans the sale of assault rifles, demands rigorous background checks on those seeking to purchase any weapon, and provides funding for psychological and social programs that identify and prevent violent behavior among all students.

We also recognize that school shootings often occur in predominantly white and suburban schools and that school shootings are perpetrated by white gun owners. We also encourage student, teacher, parent and public school advocates to consider the tragic toll that gun violence has taken and continues to take on students from communities of color as well as high-poverty neighborhoods and rural areas across the nation.