

Enhancing School Safety in Iowa: ZeroEyes AI Gun Detection and SAVE Funding

In the wake of the Perry High School tragedy in January 2024, Iowa is taking proactive steps to protect students, teachers, and staff through advanced security measures. A key initiative involves the implementation of ZeroEyes, an AI-driven firearm detection system, now eligible for funding through [House File 2652](#) and Iowa's Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) program.

This innovative approach aims to reduce response times to potential threats, enhance situational awareness, and ultimately help save lives.

Understanding ZeroEyes AI Gun Detection

ZeroEyes is an artificial intelligence-based gun detection platform designed to identify visible firearms in real-time through existing surveillance camera systems. Developed by military veterans and technology experts, the system utilizes deep-learning AI to recognize weapons and immediately alert security personnel and law enforcement when a threat is detected.

Key features of ZeroEyes include:

- Works with existing security cameras, reducing implementation costs
- AI-driven firearm detection that monitors live feeds continuously
- Human verification process to minimize false positives
- Immediate alerts to school security teams and local law enforcement, including a snapshot of the firearm and its location



Live ZeroEyes Detection outside of a Texas Elementary School in May 2024

In the last year alone, ZeroEyes' technology has detected over 1,300 firearms, leading to dozens of arrests.

Iowa SAVE Funds and Legislative Support

The SAVE fund is a statewide sales tax revenue fund dedicated to improving educational infrastructure in Iowa. Following an increase in school-related threats nationwide, Iowa legislators have prioritized safety investments through SAVE, enabling districts to purchase advanced security solutions like ZeroEyes.

This decision has garnered bipartisan support from Iowa legislators, school boards, and law enforcement agencies. During the Joint Public Safety Meeting on December 6, 2024, lawmakers emphasized the importance of utilizing AI for rapid threat detection, citing ZeroEyes

as an example of how technology can enhance public safety in educational settings without infringing upon Second Amendment rights.

Iowa law enforcement agencies and school districts have endorsed ZeroEyes, recognizing its ability to reduce response times and enhance situational awareness. The system is already active in several Iowa schools and healthcare facilities, complementing existing security measures like SROs and emergency response plans.

Impact on Iowa Schools

The implementation of ZeroEyes through SAVE funding is expected to have far-reaching effects on school security, community confidence, and law enforcement preparedness. Key benefits include:

- Faster response times: Immediate intervention when a firearm is detected
- Enhanced situational awareness: Real-time alerts with firearm location data for first responders
- Reduced false alarms: AI and human verification minimize unnecessary panic
- Seamless integration: Implementation without costly infrastructure overhauls

DHS SAFETY Act Designation

The Department of Homeland Security's [SAFETY Act Designation](#) is a critical factor in the security industry. It provides liability protection to companies developing and deploying anti-terrorism technologies. Achieving this designation ensures that the technology has undergone rigorous vetting to verify its effectiveness.

Some of the factors that go into a vendor obtaining the SAFETY Act Designation:



- ✓ Successful testing in real-world environments
- ✓ Pass internal and external audits
- ✓ Favorable customer feedback
- ✓ Documented quality assurance plan
- ✓ Show that the technology that is repeatability proven to perform as intended with consistent positive results and a high level of reliability

The above qualifiers are why Iowa leadership requires that **SAVE funds cannot be spent on any AI gun detection vendor that has not achieved a SAFETY Act Designation by July 1, 2025.**

Looking Ahead: The Future of AI Weapons Detection in School Safety

As technology continues to advance, AI-driven security measures will play an increasingly significant role in protecting schools across the United States. Iowa's decision to open up the use of SAVE funds for ZeroEyes sets a model for other states considering similar school safety investments.

Moving forward, collaboration between lawmakers, law enforcement, educators, and AI technology companies will be crucial in ensuring the effective and ethical use of AI for security. Visual firearm detection is believed to be the one truly universal application of analytics across security cameras.

With continued state funding, policy refinements, and community engagement, Iowa is leading the way in implementing proactive solutions to keep students and educators safe. As we look to the future, the integration of AI-driven security measures like ZeroEyes represents a significant step ahead in creating safer learning environments for all.

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