

**Okemos Public Schools Board of Education
Okemos, Michigan**

Resolution: Secure Storage Notification for States with Secure Storage Laws

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the “Board”) was held in the Administrative Board Room, within the boundaries of the District, on the 20th day of May, 2024, at 7 o’clock in the evening.

The Meeting was called to order by Mary Gebara, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by **Member** _____ and supported by **Member** _____:

Whereas, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

Whereas, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; [1]

Whereas, every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That’s nearly one unintentional shooting per day.[2]

Whereas, another 700 children and teens die by gun suicide each year,[3] most often using guns belonging to a family member.[4] Over 85 percent of child firearm suicides take place in the home.[5]

Whereas, in the vast majority of active shooter incidents in K-12 schools, the shooter or shooters were school-age and were current or former students.[6]

Whereas, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;[7]

Whereas, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of firearms because 76 percent of school shooters used firearms acquired from the homes of parents or close relatives;[8]

Whereas, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA, and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;[9]

Whereas, school districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices.

Whereas, keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites.

Whereas, state law imposes penalties on adults when a child gains unauthorized access to an unsecurely stored firearm.

Whereas, in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now; now therefore, be it:

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about the importance of secure gun storage, the legal consequences to parents and guardians when a child gains unauthorized access to an unsecurely stored firearm, and that the best practice for secure gun storage is to keep all guns unloaded, locked up, and separate from ammunition.

Be it further resolved that the Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage in preventing minors from accessing guns, the legal consequences to parents and guardians when a child gains unauthorized access to an unsecurely stored firearm, and that the best practice for secure gun storage is to keep all guns unloaded, locked up, and separate from ammunition, to be included in annual registration materials at each school site, and requiring a signature acknowledging awareness of secure gun storage responsibilities; and, be it finally;

Now, therefore, be it further resolved that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Okemos Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Education at a regular meeting held on the 20th day of May, 2024, original of which resolution is a part of the Board's minutes, and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public under the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education

[1] Matthew Miller and Deborah Azrael, "Firearm Storage in US Households with Children: Findings from the 2021 National Firearm Survey," JAMA Network Open 5, no. 2 (2022): e2148823, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.48823>.

[2] Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "#NotAnAccident Index," <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>. Analysis includes incidents that occurred between 2015 and 2021.

[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER Online Database, Underlying Cause of Death. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2016 to 2020. Children defined as ages 0 to 17.

[4] Renee M. Johnson et al., "Who Are the Owners of Firearms Used in Adolescent Suicides?," Suicide & Life-Threatening Behavior 40, no. 6 (2010): 609–11, <https://doi.org/10.1521/suli.2010.40.6.609>.

- [5] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS), 2019. Ages 0-17.
- [6] 1 New York City Police Department, "Active Shooter: Recommendations and Analysis for Risk Mitigation," 2016, <https://on.nyc.gov/2nWHM4O>.
- [7] David C. Grossman et al., "Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries," JAMA 293, no. 6 (2005): 707–14, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.293.6.707>.
- [8] National Threat Assessment Center et al., "Protecting America's Schools." https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf.
- [9] <https://besmartforkids.org/>.