



Gahanna - Jefferson Public Schools
160 South Hamilton Road Gahanna, OH 43230

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Feb 22, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting Agenda
Category	L. GENERAL BUSINESS OF THE BOARD
Subject	6. Firearm Storage Resolution
Type	Action
Recommended Action	Approve the following resolution:

Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Secure Storage Notification Resolution

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 5.4 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

Whereas, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

Whereas, suicide by a firearm is at an all time high of 26,993 in 2022, most often using firearms belonging to a family member;

Whereas, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends;

Whereas, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

Whereas, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

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;

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 and staff safe from threats should be the responsibility of all families and community partners:

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

Resolved, That the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about the secure storage of firearms;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter, translated to our representative languages, to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing unsecured firearms, 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

Resolved, That the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and nonprofit agencies to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes.

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