



BRADY
UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

THE SCHOOL LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE GUN STORAGE

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THE SCHOOL LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE GUN STORAGE

Customize this template letter for school principals, administrators, or superintendents to initiate meaningful dialogue and formally request that information on secure firearm storage be shared with parents and guardians.

TEMPLATE

Letter to School Principals or Superintendents

Dear Principals or Superintendents,

Firearm-related injuries are the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States. We know all too well how these tragedies impact our schools and communities. We write to offer our support to help provide the students and staff of [INSERT SCHOOL OR DISTRICT] with a safe educational environment. A key way to do this is by educating parents and guardians about the risks associated with child access to unsecured firearms.

More than half of U.S. gun owners do not store all guns securely and 4.6 million children in America live in homes with an unlocked gun as a result. Tragically, every day, eight kids are unintentionally injured or killed due to family fire, or someone misusing an unsecured firearm from the home.

We can protect students by encouraging those in our community to practice secure firearm storage, which means storing firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition. Locking all household firearms is proven to significantly reduce firearm injuries and fatalities among children, including firearm suicide and unintentional shootings.

Studies show that keeping students away from guns in the home is a critical intervention to reduce harm and can even reduce school shootings. In fact, 76 percent of school shooters used firearms from the home of a parent or close relative.

We are providing you with a template letter we hope you will customize and disseminate to parents and guardians about the dangers of unsecured guns in the home. Families can find customized guidance on secure storage options and resources at endfamilyfire.org.

As concerned families, students, teachers, and community members, we are dedicated to preventing firearm tragedies. We are grateful for your consideration and would appreciate a chance to meet with you about this effort.

Sincerely,
[Concerned Citizens]



THE SCHOOL LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE GUN STORAGE

Provide this template letter to school principals, administrators, or superintendents to customize or use as a practical model for parent and guardian notifications about secure firearm storage.

TEMPLATE

Letter to Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Providing students and staff in the [INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT] with a safe educational environment is a top priority and a responsibility we all share. To that end, we must ensure our students are safe from firearm-related injuries and deaths, which often result from unsecured firearms at their home or the homes of classmates.

Unsecured firearms in the home can lead to unintentional shootings, suicide, or other tragedies. Every day, eight children and teens are injured or killed due to family fire, or a shooting that results from someone misusing an unsecured firearm from the home. According to an FBI study, 76 percent of school shooters obtained their firearms from the home of a parent or close relative.

We all want to prevent tragedies like these, and the evidence is clear: we can both protect our homes and ensure children are safe by practicing secure firearm storage and encouraging others to do the same. That means storing guns locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition, ensuring they're inaccessible to youth and any unauthorized users. Secure storage helps protect not only our own families, but also the entire school community.

From cable locks to gun safes, there are many affordable secure storage options that provide quick access without compromising safety.

As a reminder, [INSERT STATE] has the following child access prevention law(s) or legislation relating to the secure storage of firearms: [INSERT DETAILS ON STATE LEGISLATION, IF APPLICABLE].

Families can find customized guidance on safe storage options and newly updated resources at endfamilyfire.org.
Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL LEADER]



THE SCHOOL LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE GUN STORAGE

Customize this letter for school board members to request formal adoption of a districtwide resolution directing all schools to provide parents and guardians with clear information on the dangers of unsecured firearms and best practices for secure firearm storage.

TEMPLATE

Letter to School Board

Dear School Board Members:

Firearm-related injuries are the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States. We know all too well how these tragedies impact our schools and communities. That's why we want to offer our support to help you provide the students and staff of [INSERT SCHOOL OR DISTRICT] with a safe educational environment. A key way to do this is by passing a resolution to annually disseminate notifications educating parents and guardians about the risks associated with child access to unsecured firearms.

More than half of U.S. gun owners do not practice secure gun storage and 4.6 million children in America live in homes with an unlocked gun as a result. Tragically, every day, eight kids are unintentionally injured or killed due to family fire, or someone misusing an unsecured firearm from the home. According to an FBI study, 76 percent of school shooters used a firearm from the home of a parent or close relative.

We can protect students by encouraging parents and guardians to practice secure firearm storage, which means storing firearms locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition.

We are providing you with a template resolution we hope you will customize and come together to adopt to ensure all schools in our district disseminate information to educate parents and guardians about the dangers of unsecured guns in the home and how they can practice and promote secure firearm storage. Families can also find personalized guidance on secure storage options and resources at endfamilyfire.org.

We urge the [NAME OF SCHOOL BOARD] to consider holding a public hearing with our fellow parents and community members to gain insight and input into this and other strategies for promoting secure firearm storage.

As concerned families, students, teachers, and community members, we are dedicated to preventing firearm tragedies. We are grateful for your consideration and would appreciate a chance to meet with you about this effort.

Sincerely,
[Your name]



THE SCHOOL LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE GUN STORAGE

School board meetings commonly provide opportunities for public comment. Use these talking points to prepare for and deliver remarks at your local school board meeting in support of the district disseminating information on the risks of unsecured firearms and the importance of secure storage.

TALKING POINTS

School Board Meeting

- Firearm-related injuries are the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States. These tragedies impact our schools and communities far too often.
- More than half of U.S. gun owners do not practice secure gun storage, and 4.6 million children in America live in homes with an unlocked gun as a result.
- Every day, eight kids are unintentionally injured or killed due to someone misusing an unsecured firearm from the home.
- 76 percent of school shooters used a firearm from the home of a parent or close relative.
- We can protect students by encouraging those in our community to practice secure firearm storage.
- You can help by requiring that schools in [DISTRICT] send letters home to parents and caregivers about the dangers of unsecured guns in the home and how they can practice and promote secure firearm storage.
- Brady and the nationally recognized End Family Fire secure storage program have drafted template letters that you can customize and disseminate to aid in this effort.
- As concerned families, students, teachers, and community members, we are dedicated to preventing firearm tragedies and would appreciate working with you on this effort.

If your state had a secure storage or child access prevention law:

- [STATE] has adopted a law requiring [ex. firearms must be kept locked where there are minors present,] but not all gun owners are aware of this law.
- In some instances, caregivers and even school administrators have been held liable for not implementing adequate safety measures that could have helped prevent shootings.



THE SCHOOL LETTER CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE GUN STORAGE

Provide this template resolution to school board members along with your request for a secure storage notification resolution on secure firearm storage.

TEMPLATE

School Board 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 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

WHEREAS, every day on average, eight children are unintentionally shot with an unlocked firearm;

WHEREAS, over the past decade, youth firearm suicide rates increased by 57% and in 75% of youth firearm suicides for which the gun storage method could be identified, the gun was stored loaded and unlocked;

WHEREAS, 76 percent of school shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, or the home of a close relative;

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States;

WHEREAS, research shows that if just 20% of gun-owning parents locked all household firearms, up to 32% of youth firearm suicides and unintentional firearm fatalities could be prevented;

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the End Family Fire program, which is endorsed by [NAMES] and which promotes 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, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites, including administrators, parents/guardians, and community members;

WHEREAS, [If applicable: INSERT DETAILS ABOUT RELEVANT STATE LAW(S)]

Ex. state law prohibits any person from leaving a loaded, unsecured firearm in a setting where a minor is present

WHEREAS, in order to avert firearm-related injuries and deaths and increase school safety, we must act now and implement preventative measures.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to provide information to student parents and guardians about the importance of secure firearm storage and risks of unsecured guns [If applicable: and legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms and protection of minors] by creating an appropriate notification and distributing it annually; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with school staff, community members, local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform student families of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

