

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Nichola Piper, Chairperson
Adam McGovern, Vice Chairperson
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School Boards/Committees Secure Storage Notification Resolution for States with Safe Storage or Child Access Prevention Laws

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, Another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns 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;

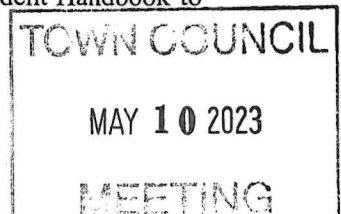
Whereas, School districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices;

Whereas, Keeping students, 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 unsupervised access to unsecurely stored firearms;

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

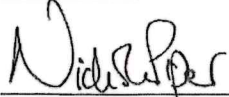
Resolved, That the School Committee directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about parents' legal obligations regarding the secure storage of firearms;



Resolved further, That the School Committee directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter, in English, Portuguese and Spanish, to parents and guardians, that explains the importance of secure gun storage and the legal obligations to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns, to be included in annual registration materials at each school site; and, be it finally;

Resolved, That the School Committee 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.

WHERETO: The following bear witness:



Nichola Piper, Chairperson



Witness - School Committee Clerk

April 17, 2023

Date Passed by the School Committee

2023 APR 25 AM 10:07
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND