



Parent/Guardian:

Providing our students and staff in the Grand Canyon Unified School District with a safe educational environment remains one of our top priorities. We are all aware of incidents of gun violence in our surrounding communities, and across the nation. A recent survey found that 57 percent of teens are concerned that there will be a shooting in their school. Studies of all types of school based gun violence across decades all point to the same significant point of intervention -- addressing students unauthorized access to guns in the home. For example, a recent Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center study of targeted school violence incidents from 2008 to 2017, found that 76 percent of the firearms were obtained from the home of a parent or close relative.

Unsecured guns in the home pose a risk to students beyond gun violence in schools. Every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day. Almost 700 children die by gun suicide each year. In the overwhelming majority of these incidents, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in their home.

One study found that 87 percent of kids know where their parents' guns are kept and 60 percent have handled them. 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. Storing firearms securely protects any child in the home as well as students throughout the school district and community.

You can learn more and download helpful resources; including a secure storage fact sheet, talking to your children about guns, and facts and resources on child firearm suicide, at <https://besmartforkids.org/resources/> .

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