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### California Law - Safe Storage of Firearms

This information is to inform and remind all of our parents and caregivers who own firearms of their responsibilities for keeping those firearms out of the hands of children as required by California law.

Around our country and the world, there have been many tragic incidents related to gun violence and accidental shootings. There have been many news reports of children bringing firearms to school. In many instances, the firearms were obtained due to improper gun storage at home. **These incidents can easily be prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner, including keeping them locked up when not in use and storing them separately from ammunition.**

To help those who own firearms understand their legal responsibilities, this letter spells out California law regarding the storage of firearms. There are similar laws across the United States. Please take some time to review this important information and if you own a firearm, to evaluate your own personal practices to assure that you and your family are in compliance with California law: [Criminal Storage of a Firearm. California Penal Code section 25100\(A\)](#)

- This State of California statute makes it a crime to store a loaded firearm on any premises under your control, where that person knows or reasonably should know a child is likely to gain access to the firearm; and the child causes a death or great bodily injury, carries the firearm to a public place, such as school or school-sponsored event. *See California Penal Code sections 25100 through 25125 and 25200 through 25220*
- California also makes it a crime if a firearm is stored on any premises under your control, where that person knows or reasonably knows that a child is likely to gain access to it without permission, unless reasonable action is taken to secure the firearm against access by the child, even where a minor **never** actually accesses the firearm. *See California Penal Code section 25100(c)*
- In addition to potential fines and terms of imprisonment, as of January 1, 2020, a gun owner found criminally liable under these California laws faces prohibitions from possessing, controlling, owning, receiving, or purchasing a firearm for 10 years. *See California Civil Code Section 29805.*
- Finally, a parent or guardian may also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or ward. *See California Civil Code Section 1714.3. See California Civil Code Section 1714.3.*

Remember that the easiest way to comply with the law and keep our communities safe is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable. We encourage you to retrieve the full text of the above laws for further details.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our students, staff and all of our schools safe.