



School Administrative Unit 70

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Hanover High School
Frances C. Richmond Middle School
Bernice A. Ray School
Marion W. Cross School

Dresden School Board Secure Firearms Storage Resolution As adopted: February 27, 2024

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 year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's nearly 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 were current students or recent graduates;

Whereas 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;

Whereas the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of firearms because 76 percent of school shooters used firearms acquired from the homes of parents or close relatives;

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 proactively to 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, under certain circumstances, state law imposes penalties on adults when a child gains unauthorized access to an unsecured firearm;

Whereas in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about the importance of secure gun storage, the legal consequences to parents and guardians when a child gains unauthorized access to an unsecured firearm, and that the best practice for secure gun storage is to keep all guns unloaded, locked up, and separate from ammunition;

The Board also directs the Superintendent to disseminate information about safe storage to parents and guardians through the District website and through notices sent from individual district schools. This includes having the Superintendent send home a fact sheet.

The Board and the Superintendent will continue to collaborate with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profits to increase efforts to inform District parents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.