



June 7, 2024

Dear Fairfield Families,

As we progress through the summer months, we want to emphasize the importance of safety within our Fairfield community. The Fairfield Public Schools and Fairfield Police Department are dedicated to working together to create a secure environment for our students, families, faculty, and staff. In the past, we've focused on various safety aspects such as school security, internet safety, safe travel, and weather preparedness—all of which remain crucial. Recently, our discussions with Connecticut Against Gun Violence have highlighted the significance of firearm safety. This June marks the fourth anniversary of **Ethan's Law**, a Connecticut regulation that requires firearms to be safely stored in households with minors.

We urge everyone to stay vigilant and support our efforts to maintain community safety. Connecticut law holds firearm owners accountable for securing their weapons. Experts, including those from the ATF, advise that firearms should be stored locked and unloaded, with ammunition locked separately. Programs like [Project ChildSafe](#) from the National Shooting Sports Foundation provide additional guidelines for secure storage. Similarly, the [Sandy Hook Promise](#) offers valuable advice on safe firearm storage. Even if your home does not contain firearms, it's essential to ensure that your child knows what to do if they encounter one at a friend's or relative's house. Always ask, "Is there a gun in the home, and if so, how is it secured?" The Fairfield Police Department is available to assist with any questions or concerns regarding firearm storage and safety.

It is also important to note that minors possessing firearms or other deadly weapons violate both state law and Fairfield Board of Education Policy, which mandate expulsion for such offenses. A deadly weapon, as defined by state law, includes any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, that can discharge a shot, as well as items like switchblade knives, gravity knives, billy clubs, blackjacks, bludgeons, or metal knuckles (CGS 53a-3(6)). This definition also encompasses air pistols and similar devices capable of causing serious injury or death.

We encourage all residents to promote safety in the Fairfield community by ensuring that firearms and ammunition are stored securely in compliance with Connecticut law. Fairfield is a strong, vibrant, and caring community, and together we can ensure the safety and well-being of all its members.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Testani  
Superintendent of Fairfield Public Schools

Robert Kalamaras  
Fairfield Chief of Police