

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2024-20:

SAFE AND SECURE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of students and staff are of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, a national survey found that 57% of our youth are concerned that there will be a shooting in their school, and the percentage of our students who reported feeling safe at school substantially decreased between 2021 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, in Alaska, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens (ages 0-19); an average of 20 children and teens (ages 0-19) in Alaska die from firearms every year; and 1 in 10 Alaska adults live in a home with an unlocked and loaded firearm; and

WHEREAS, unsecured guns in the home pose a risk to our students beyond gun violence in schools. Every year, an average of 350 youth under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, amounting to approximately one unintentional shooting per day.

WHEREAS, gun-involved suicide among our youth has reached the highest rate in more than 20 years; and in most child gun-involved suicides, the gun used belonged to someone in their home. 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; and

WHEREAS, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District was the first school district in Alaska to partner with the Be SMART campaign and encourages responsible firearm ownership for risk mitigation by providing students and staff with a safe educational environment; and

WHEREAS, the Be SMART campaign was created to bring together all responsible adults to reduce suicides and the number of unintentional shootings that occur when children get ahold of an unsecured firearm; and

WHEREAS, the Be SMART campaign encourages responsible firearm ownership and aims to reduce firearm deaths as a result of children accessing unsecured firearms and raises awareness about unintentional shootings by children and how to store firearms in the home securely; and

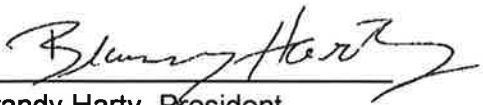
WHEREAS, parents and caretakers are encouraged to Be SMART by taking five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children:

- Secure all firearms in your home and vehicles;
- Model responsible behavior around firearms;
- Ask about the presence of unsecured firearms in other homes;


- Recognize the risks of teen suicide;
- Tell your peers to be SMART;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and Board of Education will continue partnering with the Be SMART campaign to help keep our schools safe by collaborating with and distributing the Be SMART safe and secure firearm storage information and resources to Fairbanks North Star Borough students, staff, families, and community members.

Passed and Approved: June 4, 2024



Brandy Harty, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:


Carmella Richardson
Board of Education Executive Assistant

Resources:

For more information about Be SMART, please visit [BeSMARTforKids.org](https://besmartforkids.org).

For more information about pediatric firearm safety, please visit: <https://besmartforkids.org/>
<https://momsdemandaction.org/>

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2775412>