Mathis Independent School District

DR. TODD WHITE, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
"World Class District"
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Mrs. Lacy Brauchle
Elementary School

July 15, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Texas law now requires school districts to distribute information to parents and guardians about the safe storage of firearms. The attached information will help you learn about options for, as well as how to talk to your child and others about, the safe storage of firearms.

In 2021, 4,613 Texans experienced gun-related deaths. The Texas Department of State Health Services (SHS) reports that 55% of Texas firearms deaths in 2020 were suicides and that 59% of all suicides in Texas were by firearms. Suicide attempts involving firearms have a 90% fatality rate. **Restricting access to guns is critical in reducing acts of violence, whether as self-harm or towards others. Acts of mass violence and interpersonal violence often end in suicide.**

It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under Texas Penal Code 46.13, a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:

- Failed to secure the firearm; or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a $500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a $4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two).

Texas exempts the purchase of firearm safety equipment from Texas Sales and Use Tax.

Remember, a gun should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere. You can learn more and find additional resources from the Texas Department of Public Safety at https://safegunstoragetexas.com.

Safe gun storage is critical to preventing suicide, unintentional shootings, and other tragedies.

Sincerely,

Dr. Todd White
Superintendent of Schools

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Estimado(a) padre/madre/tutor:

La ley de Texas exige ahora a los distritos escolares que distribuyan información a los padres y tutores sobre el almacenamiento seguro de las armas de fuego. La información adjunta lo ayudará a conocer las opciones para guardar armas de fuego de forma segura, así como la manera de hablar con su hijo y con otras personas sobre este tema.

Es ilegal almacenar, transportar o abandonar un arma de fuego no asegurada en un lugar donde sea probable que haya niños y puedan tener acceso al arma de fuego. Según el **Código Penal de Texas 46.13**, una persona comete el delito de hacer un arma de fuego accesible a un niño si este tiene acceso a un arma de fuego fácilmente descargable y el negligente criminal:

- No ha asegurado el arma de fuego.
- Dejó el arma de fuego en un lugar al que sabía o debería haber sabido que el niño tendría acceso.

La pena por permitir que un niño tenga acceso a un arma de fuego puede variar desde un delito menor de clase C (castigado con una multa de $500) hasta un delito menor de clase A (castigado con una multa de $4,000, un año de cárcel o una combinación de ambas).

Texas exime la compra de equipos de seguridad para armas de fuego de su impuesto sobre las ventas y uso.

Recuerde que las armas deben guardarse descargadas en una caja fuerte o en un contenedor cerrado con llave, y la munición en otro lugar. Puede obtener más información y encontrar recursos adicionales del Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas en **https://safegunstoragetexas.com/es/**.

Sinceramente,

Dr. Todd White
Superintendente de Escuelas



MAKE GUN OWNERSHIP SAFER

Practicing safe gun storage protects our kids, prevents accidents, and keeps our firearms out of the hands of criminals. Together, we can KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!

FOLLOW THESE 3 STEPS TO SAFE GUN STORAGE

Safely storing firearms is the duty of every gun owner. And, it's pretty simple, really. Just follow these 3 steps. But do it today to keep your fellow Texans safe!

1

Store Firearms

Store unloaded and secured by using a trigger lock, biometric lock, gun case, strong box, gun cabinet or gun safe.

2

Store Ammunition

Store and lock ammunition safely.

3

Restrict Access

Keep others from getting access to stored firearms 24/7. That includes family, friends, children, or other visitors.

KEEP 'EM SAFE TEXAS

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP 'EM SAFE, TEXAS!

SafeGunStorageTexas.com

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HACER QUE LA PROPIEDAD DELARMA SEA MÁS SEGURA

La práctica del almacenamiento seguro de armas protege a nuestros niños, evita accidentes y mantiene nuestras armas lejos de manos criminales. Juntos, podemos ¡MANTENERLAS SEGURAS, TEXAS!

SIGA ESTOS 3 PASOS PARA EL ALMACENAMIENTO SEGURO DE ARMAS

Almacenar con seguridad las armas de fuego es deber de cada propietario de armas. Y realmente es muy sencillo. Solo siga estos 3 pasos. ¡Pero hágalo hoy para mantener seguros a sus amigos texanos!

1

ALMACENE DE FORMA SEGURA ARMAS DE FUEGO

Almacénelas descargadas y aseguradas usando un seguro de gatillo, seguro biométrico, estuche, caja fuerte, armero o caja de seguridad para armas.

2

ALMACENE DE FORMA SEGURA MUNICIONES

Almacene y asegure de manera segura las municiones.

3

RESTRINJA EL ACCESO

Evite 24/7 que otras personas tengan acceso a las armas de fuego almacenadas. Eso incluye a la familia, amistades, niños u otros visitantes.

KEEP'EM SAFE TEXAS

APRENDA MÁS SOBRE CÓMO PUEDE AYUDAR, ¡MANTENLAS SEGURAS, TEXAS!

SafeGunStorageTexas.com

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