



DATE: March 2025
TO: Families of DuPage County Students
RE: Secure Firearm Storage

DuPage County Schools, in conjunction with our School Safety Network and community partners, are requesting your help with an important safety issue. We are committed to providing a safe educational environment for our students, staff, and community, and **statistics show that the safe storage of guns can prevent tragedies both at home and at school.** Safety is a collective commitment, and owning a firearm comes with important responsibilities.

How can securely storing firearms prevent tragedy?

- Suicide: Over the past decade, the firearm suicide rate among young people has increased faster than any other age group, and one study showed that *more than 80 percent of children under the age of 18 who died by gun suicide used a firearm belonging to a parent or relative.*
- Mass Shootings: In mass shootings at PreK-12 schools, *more than 80 percent of shooters used a firearm owned by a family member.*
- Self-Inflicted and Unintentional Injuries: Studies indicate that *proper firearm storage can reduce the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries* among children and teens compared to households that did not safely store firearms.

Need more information on how to secure your firearms? Please visit the [Safe Firearm Storage Sheet](#).

In addition to storing any guns securely, **we are also asking you to prioritize communication.** If you overhear *anyone* talking about or threatening to commit an act of violence—either toward themselves or others—please contact your local police department, school district, or [Illinois Safe2Help](#), where you can provide information anonymously and confidentially. We want to intervene, but you are the eyes and ears of the community, and your responsible reporting could help us prevent a tragedy.

Finally, we want you to know that **if you or someone you know are in crisis**, please contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by dialing 988 for free and confidential phone support. This help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact us with any questions.

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