



Burbank Unified School District
1900 W. Olive Avenue Burbank, CA 91506
www.burbankusd.org

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Dear Burbank Unified School District Parents/Guardians:

At Burbank Unified School District, we care deeply about the welfare, well-being and sense of security of every Burbank Unified student. Every child needs to feel safe and supported in order to learn, grow and succeed in their educational environment. Therefore, we wanted to provide you with some information regarding firearm safety and the necessity of storing firearms securely as a way to assist in protecting children, families and our entire community.

As parents/guardians, we all have a role to play in keeping children safe. In addition to the responsibilities of families, schools and community organizations also play an integral part in preventing avoidable tragedies. The use of secure firearm storage can significantly decrease the risk of unauthorized access to firearms, unintentional injuries caused by firearms, suicides involving firearms and violence related to firearms.

For those of you who have firearms in your homes, we ask that you consider taking the following precautionary measures:

- Store firearms securely in a locked safe or other type of locked container, or utilize a California Department of Justice approved locking device.
- Ensure that ammunition is unloaded from firearms and is locked and stored separately from the firearms.
- When visiting the homes of friends, family members, neighbors and/or caregivers with your child(ren), inquire about whether firearms exist within those households and if so, how are they being stored securely?
- Be aware of any signs of emotional distress, depression or suicidal ideation that may exist among individuals known to your child(ren) and seek professional assistance if you believe that an individual is in need of support.

In California, there are established laws requiring firearm owners to securely store firearms and prevent unauthorized access. We strongly recommend that families familiarize themselves with current state regulations and incorporate secure storage practices whenever firearms are not directly possessed or controlled by the owner.

If you suspect that someone is experiencing a mental health crisis or is at risk of harming themselves or others, please remember that you do not need to deal with this issue alone. There are numerous resources available to assist you:

- Emergency: Dial or text 911.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Dial or text 988.
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: Dial 800-799-7233 or text "START" to 88788.
- Burbank Unified School District Student Services: Call 818-729-4467.

A Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) is a civil court order that provides authority for the temporary removal of firearms from an individual who has demonstrated a substantial threat to himself/herself or others. Please do not attempt to remove firearms from an individual who appears threatening. If there is an immediate threat to safety, please call 911. If there is no immediate threat but you still have concerns about an individual's behavior, please contact the Burbank Police Department or your local law enforcement agency.

Families may also find additional resources available on the Burbank Unified School District's [Gun Safety Webpage](<https://www.burbankusd.org/departments/emergency-planning-and-safety/gun-safety>).

This webpage includes information regarding how to have thoughtful discussions about firearms with children who may visit homes where firearms are present.

We appreciate your cooperation and your commitment to supporting the education of Burbank Unified students every single day. Working together, with awareness, understanding and common goals, we can create a safe learning environment at Burbank Unified schools, homes and community for every child.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom McCoy
Superintendent