

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We all want our children to fulfill their utmost potential, and it is our responsibility to provide them with safe environments at home, in school, and where they play.

Did you know that one out of three homes with children has guns, many left unlocked or loaded, and that four out of five unintentional gun deaths happen within a home?

These facts urgently remind us that as parents/guardians, we must do everything we can to prevent child gun deaths. Make sure your child is not unsafely exposed to guns in your home by storing them securely. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that parents who choose to own guns should keep them locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition.

You can also take steps today to ensure that your children and their playmates do not come across an unsecured gun while they play. The Asking Saves Kids (ASK) Campaign seeks to inspire parents to always ASK, “Is there an unlocked gun in your house?” when arranging your child’s play dates or visits to another home. Have a conversation about firearms in the home with every adult who supervises your children during a given day.

The message of the ASK Campaign is one I hope you take to heart. Please visit **www. askingsaveskids.org**, learn more about the program, and pledge to always ASK before your child visits a friend, family member, or neighbor’s home. We have the responsibility to keep our kids safe, and pledging to always ASK is one step you can take today to achieve this goal.

We all want our nation's schools to be safe havens where children learn, grow, and achieve. Parents play an important role in keeping schools safe. The majority of guns used in school shootings come from the shooter's home or a relative's home, often because they are easy for youth to access.

Youth Access to Firearms in the Home:

- Nationwide, 1.7 million children live in a home with an unlocked, loaded gun.
- Seventy-six percent of children ages 5-14 know where firearms are kept in the home.
- Twenty-four percent of students in grades 7 through 12 report having easy access to a gun in the home.

The Link Between Guns in the Home & School Safety:

- In two-thirds of school shootings, the shooter acquired the guns from their own home or that of a relative.
- One in 20 high school students report carrying a weapon (such as a gun, knife, or club) in the past 30 days on school property.
- Over one million students report being injured or threatened with a weapon on school property in the past year.

How Parents Can Help Keep Schools Safe:

- Parents can help keep schools safe and prevent tragedies in the home by taking steps to ensure guns are inaccessible to children.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests parents who choose to own guns keep them locked, unloaded, and stored separately from ammunition.
- Parents can also take steps to ensure their child and their playmates do not come across an unsecured gun where they play. The ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign encourages parents to always ask, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" when arranging their child's play dates or visits to another home.

Making sure children don't have unsafe access to firearms in the home has the power to not only keep our schools safe by averting school shootings, but also prevent the hundreds of youth suicides and unintentional shootings that take place in homes across the country each year.

VISIT WWW.ASKINGSAVESKIDS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

We have the ability to make our schools, homes, and communities safer. Let's start doing it!

