



GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2026-16
Urging Safe Location Standards for Firearm Retailers Near Schools
and Youth-Serving Spaces

WHEREAS, the Goleta Union School District ("District") is charged under Education Code sections 35160 and 35160.1 with broad authority to act in any manner not in conflict with or inconsistent with law that is in the best interests of the District and its pupils;

WHEREAS, the District is committed to providing safe schools and supporting the safety of students as they travel to and from school and throughout the neighborhoods surrounding our schools;

WHEREAS, California Education Code section 32280 et seq. requires each District school to develop and annually update a Comprehensive School Safety Plan addressing, among other matters, procedures for the safe ingress and egress of pupils, parents, and school employees to and from school;

WHEREAS, families and community members have expressed significant fear and concern regarding the location of firearm retailers in close proximity to schools, child care facilities, youth-serving spaces, and routes regularly traveled by children and youth;

WHEREAS, gun violence remains a serious threat to children and school communities across the nation, and Education Week has documented 258 K–12 school shootings resulting in injury or death since January 1, 2018, including 17 such shootings in 2026 through August 13th, resulting in 11 deaths and 14 injuries;

WHEREAS, although California's Gun-Free School Zone Act generally prohibits possession of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a public or private K–12 school, exceptions within the law mean that this protection does not prevent otherwise lawful firearm possession within a place of business or on private property within that same 1,000-foot area;

WHEREAS, current local zoning regulations do not establish a minimum distance between firearm retailers and schools, preschools, child care facilities, or other youth-serving spaces;

WHEREAS, as a result, existing state and local regulations do not sufficiently address the location of firearm retailers in close proximity to places where children and youth learn, receive care, gather, or regularly travel;

WHEREAS, a minimum distance requirement alone does not adequately address firearm retail locations along pedestrian, bicycle, or other routes regularly traveled by children and youth to and from schools, child care facilities, and other youth-serving spaces;

WHEREAS, the Board takes no position on the lawful ownership, possession, or acquisition of firearms, expresses no view regarding any particular business or business owner, and does not seek any restriction on the exercise of rights protected by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, but instead addresses this resolution based solely the safety of pupils.

WHEREAS, the District has previously affirmed that protecting students from gun violence is a shared responsibility among schools, families, governmental agencies, law enforcement, and the broader community;

WHEREAS, the Board believes preventative action is necessary to reduce unnecessary risks and support students and families in feeling safe in and around their schools and neighborhoods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Goleta Union School District calls upon the City of Goleta, City of Santa Barbara, and County of Santa Barbara to take immediate action to amend their zoning and land-use regulations governing firearm retailers to establish minimum distances from public and private schools, preschools, child care facilities, and other youth-serving spaces, and to prohibit or restrict firearm retail locations along routes regularly traveled by children and youth to and from schools, child care facilities, and other youth-serving spaces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges these jurisdictions to consider a minimum separation of 1,000 feet and to establish processes that provide appropriate public notice and consideration of nearby youth-serving uses when firearm retail locations are proposed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the City of Goleta to work with community members, property owners, and the firearm retailer involved in the current Ellwood matter to explore lawful and practical options for a location that appropriately separates firearm retail activity from childcare facilities and other youth-serving spaces and avoids routes regularly traveled by children and youth to and from schools and other activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board and Superintendent will continue to work with local governmental agencies, law enforcement, families, and community partners to support policies and practices that promote the safety of children and youth in our schools and throughout our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to every school in the District.
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Goleta Union School District on this 19th day of August, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes _____

Noes _____

Abstain _____

Absent _____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Goleta Union School District

Ethan Bertrand, President