

*Resolution*

**Atlanta Board of Education**

Atlanta



Georgia

December 6, 2021

**RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE STORAGE  
OF FIREARMS**

- WHEREAS;** evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; **and**
- WHEREAS,** an estimated 5.4 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; **and**
- WHEREAS,** every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home; **and**
- WHEREAS,** another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member; **and**
- WHEREAS,** in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends; **and**
- WHEREAS,** research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; **and**
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes; **and**
- WHEREAS,** the handgun and ammunition used in this week's mass shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan was purchased by the suspect's father less than a week before the shooting; **and**
- WHEREAS,** across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; **and**
- WHEREAS,** school districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices; **and**
- WHEREAS,** keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be

the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites; **and**

**WHEREAS,** in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now; **now therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED,** that the Board and the Superintendent will work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District stakeholders about secure storage of firearms in their homes.

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Jason F. Esteves, Chair  
Atlanta Board of Education

Attest

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Pierre L. Gaither  
Board Executive Director