



RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

Whereas, the safety and well-being of students, teachers, and ancillary staff is a top priority for the Michigan Association of School Psychologists;

Whereas, gun violence (homicides, suicides and/or accidental shootings) is the leading cause of death for American children and teens ¹;

Whereas, every year in the United States about 3 million children witness gun violence ²;

Whereas, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm ³;

Whereas, an estimated 54 percent of gun owners do not lock all of their guns securely⁴;

Whereas, every year, 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member and roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That is nearly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home ⁵;

Whereas, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center analyzed 41 incidents of targeted school violence from 2008-2017 and in 100 percent of the incidents there were warning signs that caused others to be concerned. In 77 percent of incidents, other people were aware of the shooter's plans in advance. Seventy-six percent of school shooters used firearms acquired from the homes of parents or close relatives underscoring the importance of appropriate storage of firearms ⁶;

Whereas, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe ⁷;

Whereas, research demonstrates that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens, compared to those that locked neither ⁸;

Whereas, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program (endorsed by the Michigan State Police - Office Of School Safety, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, Michigan Elementary & Middle School Principals Association, Michigan Education Association,, and the Michigan PTA) to encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns ⁹;

Whereas, this resolution is consistent with the statement on School Violence Prevention adopted by the Michigan Association of School Psychologists Executive Board on December 15, 2021 ¹⁰;



Whereas, school districts across the country and in Michigan have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of firearm secure storage best practices;

Whereas, keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders (gun owners and non-gun owners) at each of our school sites;

Whereas, Senate Bills 79, 80, 81, and 82 and House Bills 4138 and 4142 signed by Governor Whitmer on April 21, 2023 require adults to securely store their firearms where a child may or is likely to gain unauthorized access to a firearm beginning in January 2024¹¹; and

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

Resolved, that the Michigan Association of School Psychologists:

1. urges its members and other mental health organizations to raise awareness that secure gun storage—storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition—can prevent theft and access by children, unauthorized users, and anyone who may pose a danger to themselves or others, and that secure gun storage can save children's lives;
2. supports awareness of safe storage on the MASP website and at conferences to promote our membership's awareness of secure storage practices;
3. supports members in requesting that their local school districts include information about the importance of secure gun storage and that the best practice for secure gun storage is to keep all guns unloaded, locked up, and separate from ammunition;
4. urges its members to collaborate with other community organizations that have similar interests and recognize that secure storage is an adult responsibility and is essential to preventing unauthorized, unsupervised access to firearms by children;
5. periodically communicates the importance of safe firearm storage and other firearm safety and violence prevention measures to its membership during gun violence awareness month and at other appropriate times;
6. supports legislation that encourages and incentivizes adults to store their firearms safely, as well as legislation that penalizes those who do not.

Submitted by the School-Based Mental Health Committee Members

Adopted by the Michigan Association of School Psychologists Board on May 10, 2023.

Revised 5/22/23



1. Goldstick, Cunningham, & Carter (2022). *New England Journal of Medicine*, 386;20, p.1956.
2. Child and Teen Gun Safety retrieved on 5/10/23 from <https://everytownresearch.org/issue/child-teen-safety/>.
3. Miller, M. & Azrael, D. (2022). Firearm Storage in US Households With Children: Findings From the 2021 National Firearm Survey. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(2):e2148823. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.48823>.
4. Murrow, S. "More than half of U.S. gun owners do not safely store their guns, survey finds". John Hopkins University. (2018). <https://bit.ly/3ivTVba>.
5. Everytown for Gun Safety. "#NotAnAccident Index". Everytown for Gun Safety. (2019).
6. National Threat Assessment Center et al., "Protecting America's Schools: A US Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence" (US Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2U7vnwa>.
7. David C. Grossman et al., "Gun Storage Practices and Risk of Youth Suicide and Unintentional Firearm Injuries," *JAMA* 293, no. 6 (2005): 707–14.
8. Retrieved 5/10/23 Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "Preventable Tragedies: Unintentional Shootings by Children," 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/report/preventable-tragedies-unintentional-shootings-by-children/>.
9. Thietten, Skye (March 2023) Michigan Volunteer State Lead from Be SMART at www.besmartforkids.org.
10. Statement on School Violence Prevention Adopted by the MASP Executive Board on December 15, 2021 [downloaded from MASP Executive Board](#).
11. State of Michigan Office of the Governor, April 13, 2023, *Gov. Whitmer Signs Commonsense Gun Violence Prevention Legislation to Keep Michigan Communities Safe* [Press Release] <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/press-releases/2023/04/13/whitmer-signs-commonsense-gun-violence-prevention-legislation-to-keep-michigan-communities-safe#:~:text=LANSING%2C%20Mich%E2%80%93%20Today%2C%20Governor,purchases%20and%20safe%20storage%20requirements>.