VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION
Superintendent: Matt Doyle,Ed.D.
Board Members: Martha Alvarado, Julie Kelly, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield, and Cipriano Vargas

May 6, 2022

RE: Resolution Supporting Safe Gun Storage

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Providing our students and staff with safe educational environments remains a top priority for the School Board of Trustees. At the May 5, 2022 school board meeting, the Board of Trustees took a bold stand against violence and adopted a Resolution Supporting Safe Gun Storage.

Sadly, we are all too familiar with incidents of gun violence in our surrounding communities, and across the nation. Hundreds of children have lost their lives because of easy access to firearms. Annually in California, an average of 27 children under the age of 18 die by suicide with a gun that belonged to someone in the home annually. In the majority of these gun-related incidents, the minor gained access to a lawfully purchased gun from their own home or the home of a relative.

Vista Unified School District is dedicated to taking necessary steps in ensuring our campuses are safe from the threat of gun violence. Through education to our school community and awareness to our parent partners, we are dedicated to supporting safe gun storage.

To further our efforts to protect our students and schools against the threat of firearms, and as a courtesy to our families, we would like to bring to your attention the legal obligations to protect minors from negligent gun storage. Two important gun storage laws are summarized and linked below:

Safe Storage of Firearms, San Diego Municipal Code section 53.17
The City of San Diego statute makes it unlawful for any person to keep a firearm within any residence unless the firearm is stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock approved by the California Department of Justice.

Criminal Storage of a Firearm, California Penal Code section 25100(A)
This State statute makes it a crime to store a loaded firearm on any premises under your control, knowing or reasonably should have known, a child is likely to gain access to the firearm, and the child gains access causing death or great bodily injury.

On behalf of the School Board of Trustees, I ask for your support and together we pledge to safe homes and safer schools through our Safe Gun Storage campaign.

Sincerely,

Matt Doyle, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.