



The Importance of Safe Firearm Storage for School Safety

Firearm safety is a critical concern for our community, and it directly impacts the safety of our schools. Ensuring that firearms are stored securely in homes is one of the most effective ways to protect our children and maintain a safe learning environment.

Facts

1. Firearms are the #1 cause of death for kids in Virginia and in America (Source: CDC Data)
2. An estimated 4.6 million kids live with unlocked, loaded guns (Source: American Academy of Pediatrics)
3. More than half of all US gun owners—including 55% of gun owners with children in the home—do not practice safe firearm storage. (Source: American Journal of Public Health)
4. 74% of school shooters under 18 access a firearm from their own home or that of a relative or friend (Source: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Everytown reports that this is higher at 80%)

Why Safe Firearm Storage Matters

Preventing Unauthorized Use: Secure storage prevents children from accessing firearms without parental knowledge or permission, reducing the likelihood of misuse or accidents.

Deterrence for Theft: Proper storage deters theft, ensuring firearms do not end up in the wrong hands, potentially endangering our community.

Protecting Curious Minds: Children are naturally curious. Safe storage ensures that firearms are not readily accessible to children who may be tempted to explore them out of curiosity.

School Safety Connection

The Home-to-School Link: The safety of our schools is directly connected to the safety of our homes. Firearms stored safely at home reduce the risk of these weapons entering our schools.

School Shootings Prevention: Incidents of school shootings often involve firearms taken from unsecured homes. Safe storage can help prevent such tragedies by keeping firearms out of the hands of unauthorized individuals, including students.

Promoting Responsible Citizenship: Teaching safe firearm storage at home reinforces the importance of responsible citizenship, fostering a culture of safety that extends to our schools.