

**Burbank Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent**

REPORT TO THE BOARD

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Matt Hill, Superintendent

PREPARED BY: Kimberley Clark, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY: Kimberley Clark, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

DATE: March 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution 33 – Protecting Our Children from Preventable Gun Violence

Background:

Unsecured guns pose a special risk to children—kids as young as three years old are strong enough to pull a trigger. Eighty-seven percent of children know where their parents' guns are kept and 60 percent have handled them. According to data from the group Everytown for Gun Safety, an average of 43 children ages 0 to 19 are shot and killed each year in the United States and an estimated three million children witness a shooting each year.

The Children's Firearm Safety Alliance, which tracks incidents of children under the age of 18 who have unintentionally shot themselves or others, found that in the first six months in 2019 in the U.S., at least 130 children under the age of 18 gained access to a loaded, unsecured firearm and pulled the trigger, injuring themselves or someone else; 46 children died as a result of their injury, 83 children were injured, 1 adult was killed and 4 adults were injured. Of the incidents in which the child's age was reported, 18 of the shooters were toddlers, 18 shooters were preschoolers, 31 shooters were elementary students, and 45 shooters were teenagers.

In California, nearly one in two violent deaths are firearm related and firearms are the leading mechanism for both homicides (72%) and suicides (37%). Over 80% of children who commit suicide with a gun used one that belonged to someone in their home; and guns are the third leading cause of death for children ages 1-17 in California and the second leading cause of death for children and teens in the nation.

School shootings have become an all-too-frequent occurrence in modern America. In addition to the recent tragic event at Saugus High School, in the seven years, from December 14, 2012 in Sandy Hook, Connecticut through December 3, 2019 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the Gun Violence Archive counted 339 shootings at K-12 schools in the United States. In that time, over 458 people were shot and 146 died. Seventy-eight percent of student shooters gained access to a lawfully purchased gun from their residence or the residence of a relative or friend.

Discussion/Issues:

A growing number of school districts have adopted resolutions to let their communities know the need and legal mandate for safe and secure gun storage in homes. School districts are updating Safe School

Plans to include materials for prevention of gun violence and safe gun storage. Parent and Student Handbooks are being updated to include information about parents' legal duties to safely store firearms. Finally, school districts are sending out an appropriate letter to parents and guardians explaining the importance of safe gun storage in the home and the legal obligations to protect children from negligent gun storage.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Recommendation:

Matt Hill, Superintendent, recommends that the Board of Education adopt Resolution 33 – Protecting Our Children from Preventable Gun Violence, as presented.



RESOLUTION No. 33
THE BURBANK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM PREVENTABLE GUN VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, The Burbank Unified School District, located in Los Angeles County, enrolls approximately 15,000 Pre-K-12 students at 20 school sites;

WHEREAS, School safety continues to be one of the Board of Education's highest priorities;

WHEREAS, School shootings have become an all-too-frequent occurrence in modern America. In seven years, from December 14, 2012 in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, through December 3, 2019 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the Gun Violence Archive counted 339 shootings at K-12 schools in the United States. In that time, over 458 people were shot and 146 died;

WHEREAS, Unsecured guns pose a special risk to children—kids as young as three years of age are strong enough to pull a trigger. According to Data from the group Everytown for Gun Safety, an average of 43 children ages 0 to 19 are shot and killed each year in the United States and an estimated three million children witness a shooting each year;

WHEREAS, In California, nearly one in two violent deaths are firearm related and firearms are the leading mechanism for both homicides (72%) and suicides (37%). Most often the gun used in youth suicide belongs to a parent or family member;

WHEREAS, The Children's Firearm Safety Alliance, which tracks incidents of children under the age of 18 who have unintentionally shot themselves or others, found that in the first six months of 2019 in the U.S., at least 130 children under the age of 18 gained access to a loaded, unsecured firearm and pulled the trigger, injuring themselves or someone else; 46 children died as a result of their injury, 83 children were injured, 1 adult was killed and 4 adults were injured. Of the incidents in which the child's age was reported, 18 of the shooters were toddlers, 18 shooters were preschoolers, 31 shooters were elementary students, and 45 shooters were teenagers;

WHEREAS, 78 percent of student shooters gained access to a lawfully purchased gun from their residence or the residence of a relative or friend; 87% of children know where their parents' guns are kept and 60% have handled them; more than 80% of children who commit suicide with a gun used one that belonged to someone in their home; and guns are the third leading cause of death for children ages 1-17 in California and the second leading cause of death for children and teens in the nation;

WHEREAS, District schools are required to comply with California Education Code Section 32280-9, which mandates the preparation of comprehensive school safety plans;

WHEREAS, These plans address violence prevention, emergency preparedness, traffic safety and crisis intervention;

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;

WHEREAS, Approximately 14% of adults in California possess a firearm, and state and local law criminalizes unsafe storage of firearms where minors may be present, and gun stores are required to post flyers that set forth safe storage requirements, there are no dedicated resources for educating adults about safe storage of firearms;

WHEREAS, The crisis of gun violence in our country necessitates a sustained, coordinated, and collaborative effort involving entire communities, and our public and private partners;

WHEREAS, In order to continue with preventative measures to increase school safety we must act now.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Burbank Unified School District directs the Superintendent and staff to assist school administrators in updating their Safe School Plans to include materials for the 2021-22 school year to include materials on prevention of gun violence and safe gun storage;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to continue to update the Student Handbook to include information about parents' legal duties to safely store firearms;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That the Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter, to parents and guardians that explains the importance of safe gun storage and the legal obligations to protect minors from negligent gun storage, to be included in annual registration materials at each school site, and requiring a signature acknowledging awareness of safe gun storage responsibilities;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, That the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with community partners and public and private agencies to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents of their duty to safely store firearms in their homes.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was adopted this 19th day of March, 2020, at a meeting of the Burbank Unified School District Board of Education, Los Angeles County, California.

Ayes

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Clerk, Board of Education