



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

TONY THURMOND
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1430 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901 • 916-319-0800 • WWW.CDE.CA.GOV

November 20, 2019

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

Safe Storage of Firearms and School Safety and Security

The recent spate of shooting sprees and deadly violence around the nation has shocked and saddened us and dramatically increases our need to be vigilant and proactive with safety measures at all times. District and school administrators must help educate parents and guardians about California's child access prevention laws; it is a crime for a person to negligently store or leave a loaded firearm in a place where a child is likely to access it.

This is an urgent request to inform your school community about the law regarding safe storage of firearms. Sample templates (in English and Spanish) for memoranda to parents and guardians informing them of the laws in California regarding safe storage of firearms are available on the California Department of Education's (CDE) Violence Prevention web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/vp/>. You may use these documents, or create your own, to help educate parents, guardians, and families of their legal responsibilities.

Schools alone cannot prevent incidents of gun violence. The CDE is dedicated to making our schools as safe as possible, and it is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and household members to store firearms according to California law. Tips and information about firearms safety, including *Rules for Kids*, can be accessed on the State of California Department of Justice Firearm Safety web page at <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips>.

I commend your ongoing efforts to increase school safety and security awareness and your help to ensure that our students and staff thrive in a culture free of fear and violence. The CDE will continue to provide resources and technical assistance to support your efforts.

If you have questions about school safety and security, please contact Nancy Zarenda, School Health Education Consultant, School Health Office, by phone at 916-445-8441 or by email at nzarenda@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Thurmond".

Tony Thurmond

TT:nz
2019-05721