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# MARIN COUNTY

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## OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Marin County Students:

Gun injuries occur all too frequently in our society. Hardly a week goes by when we do not learn of a gun-related tragic death or injury. Every 30 minutes a child or teen dies or is injured from a gun. 53 people commit suicide using guns every day. Americans are 20 times more likely to be killed by guns than citizens of any other developed nation. Unfortunately, American gun violence has become a national health crisis.

Very often child-related gun incidents occur when the child has obtained the weapon from his/her home. The schools and law-enforcement agencies of our community are committed to creating a safe environment for our students. We are pleased to share this information originally provided by the San Francisco Unified School District and to join our Bay Area neighbor in educating our families about gun safety. We want to raise awareness and **stop these tragedies before they happen** by following the below guidelines:

- **Store guns safely** (locked in a safe and not loaded);
- **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes (play dates, neighbors);
- Recognize signs of **suicide and depression** and speak up.

### **RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING A GUN IN THE HOME**

**Risks to your Family:** Studies have shown that a gun in your home is 22 times more likely to be used in a homicide, suicide, or accidental death than in a justified self-defense.

**Increased Risk of a Suicide:** Having an unlocked firearm in your home makes it 3-4 times more likely that a person in your home will die from a suicide attempt.

**Increased Risk of Domestic Violence:** A domestic dispute is 5 times more likely to result in a death if there is a gun in the home.

**Increased Risk of Accidental Gun Death:** It is 4 times more likely that someone will die from an accidental gun death in your home when a gun is present.

**Community Safety:** An estimated 500,000 guns are stolen from homes in America each year, which poses a significant public safety risk.

### **YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS A GUN OWNER**

Parents and legal guardians are legally responsible for protecting children by adhering to the safe storage of firearms' guidelines under California Law AB 231, which makes someone criminally liable if they store a loaded firearm where a child is likely to gain access to it. Additional information and guidelines for gun safety can be found at the [Marin County Office of Education Safe Schools website](#).

Together we can make sure our schools and communities are violence-free. If you have a firearm, thank you for ensuring that it is safely and securely stored.

Edward Berberian  
Marin County District Attorney

Robert Doyle  
Marin County Sheriff

Mary Jane Burke  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools