

Administrative School District No. 1
Bend-La Pine Schools

RESOLUTION NO. 1892

Safe Gun Storage

WHEREAS, Bend-La Pine Schools is the 5th largest district in Oregon, enrolling more than 18,000 students at 33 school sites; and

WHEREAS, school safety is one of Bend-La Pine Schools' highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, we honor the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together across Central Oregon; and

WHEREAS, school gun violence has become an all too frequent occurrence in our country. Data from Everytown for Gun Safety indicates there have been more than 180 shootings on school campuses in the U.S. since December 14, 2012, when 20 children and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary school. Since the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999, more than 228,000 children have experienced gun violence at school; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, firearms used in school-associated homicides and suicides came primarily (80%) from the perpetrator's home or from friends or relatives. According to the Journal of Urban Health, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, every day, 80 children, teens, and young adults are injured or killed by guns in the United States. The children and teen firearm suicide rate has increased by 82 percent over the past 10 years. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that firearms be stored unloaded with a cable lock or in a safe with ammunition stored separately; and

WHEREAS, given the unique lethality of suicide by gun, safe storage practices in homes and vehicles can be a means to reduce the rate of teen suicide. A study reported by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the "households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children, compared to those that locked neither;" and

WHEREAS, Bend-La Pine Schools believes the key to the process of building and maintaining safe schools is the development of active partnerships between school, parents and communities. Bend-La Pine Schools is a founding partner of the Safe Schools Alliance, established in 1998. The goal of the alliance is to provide safe and secure school environments through community and interagency partnerships among students, parents, education, mental health, community justice and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Bend-La Pine Schools has developed threat assessment programs, implemented school security upgrades, and initiated emergency planning protocols as tools to preventing school gun violence; and

WHEREAS, preventing school gun violence involves a multi-faceted approach, which includes messaging to adult the importance of safe storage of firearms; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT we, the Board of Directors for Bend-La Pine Schools directs the Superintendent and staff to assist school administrators in updating their school district safety plan to include providing information to parents and guardians on the importance of safe gun storage.

Adopted this 12 day of November, 2019

Signed:



Co-Chair



Co-Chair

Attest:



Superintendent