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**California Department of Education
Official Letter**

June 28, 2023

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and School Principals:

School Safety Legislation: Effective July 1, 2023

There is an urgent need to ensure parent and guardian responsibility for the safe storage of firearms and prevention of access to firearms. It is also critically important for all schools, districts, and county offices of education to engage multidisciplinary behavioral threat assessment teams to assist in identifying student behavior that could lead to homicidal incidents, to intervene swiftly and effectively to prevent such disasters, and to address identified mental health needs of students.

Two bills were legislated in response to the alarming increase in school shootings in California and throughout the United States, some of which are committed by children who have access to firearms and whose actions have led to injuries and deaths that could have been prevented.

This communication provides an overview of the new laws and a link to model content for parent and guardian notification of California laws regarding safe storage of firearms and prevention of child access to weapons.

The California Legislature (Assembly Bill 452, Section 1, 2023) has found and declared:

- Guns are the third leading cause of death of children in America. Every day, eight children and teens are shot in instances of family fire, which is a shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun found in the home resulting in injury or death.
- Data show that 75 percent of school shootings are facilitated by children having access to unsecured or unsupervised firearms at home. Eighty-seven percent of children know where their parents' firearms are stored, and 60 percent report that they have handled them.
- Over 80 percent of teens who have died by suicide used a firearm that belonged to someone in their home.

Assembly Bill 452—Pupil Safety: Parental Notification, Firearm Safety Laws

Section 48986 has been added to the California *Education Code (EC)* and requires that beginning on July 1, 2023, **all kindergarten through grade twelve school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools** shall annually inform parents and guardians of California's child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term. You will find Assembly Bill 452 on the California Legislative Information web page at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB452.

Senate Bill 906—School Safety: Homicide Threats

Sections 49390 through 49395 have been added to the *EC*. This bill seeks to address homicidal threats in middle and high schools and applies only to local educational agencies that serve pupils in any grades from six through twelve as part of a middle school or high school. Local educational agencies serving these pupils must include information about child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms in the annual notifications to parents/guardians at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school term. The law states that school officials are required to report homicidal threats or perceived threats, as defined, to law enforcement, who must conduct an immediate investigation and threat assessment, as defined. You will find Senate Bill 906 on the California Legislative Information web page at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB906.

Parent/guardian annual notification that satisfies the model content requirement of Assembly Bill 452 and Senate Bill 906 is available in English and Spanish on the California Department of Education's (CDE's) Violence Prevention web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/vp/>.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that students, staff, families, and communities are as prepared and safe as possible. Thank you for your attention and commitment to school safety.

If you have any questions, please contact the CDE School Health and Safety Office at SHSO@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tony Thurmond
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Last Reviewed: Thursday, June 29, 2023
