

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ**  
**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**  
June 27, 2022

**RESOLUTION        4315**

**FOR ACTION**

**SUBJECT:            SAFE FIREARM STORAGE**

**WHEREAS**, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each day 8 children die from gun violence and 32 are injured; and

**WHEREAS**, firearms are the second leading cause of death among American children and adolescents; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; and

**WHEREAS**, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns to encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Superintendent to place an appropriate letter on the District website and in the District's Annual Family Digital Backpack (PowerSchool), in English, Spanish, and Creole to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage and the legal obligations to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies and health agencies in a collaborative manner to inform District parents of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.

**BACKGROUND**

Providing the following information is a public health approach to helping our community reduce the harmful effects of gun violence on our population.