

**Seattle School District #1
Board Proclamation**



**PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE AS NATIONAL GUN
VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

This proclamation recognizes June 4, 2021 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Seattle School District to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a community must do all we can to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, Since the onset of COVID-19, the United States has seen a rise in gun violence. Increased gun sales, particularly among first-time owners, along with millions of children atypically home from school, have greatly increased the risk of child gun suicide and unintentional shootings;

WHEREAS, An estimated 4.6 million United States children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearmⁱ;

WHEREAS, An estimated 30% of children in the State of Washington live in a home with a firearm, and 55% of these children live in a household with at least one loaded, unlocked firearmⁱⁱ;

WHEREAS, Every year in the United States, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77% of these incidents take place inside a homeⁱⁱⁱ;

WHEREAS, Every year in the US, another 590 children die by gun suicide, most often using guns belonging to a family member, and over the past decade the firearm suicide rate among children and teens has increased 59%. American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest suicide rate among youth^{iv};

WHEREAS, In the State of Washington, 53% of all gun deaths among children and teens are suicides, and in King County, 75% of firearms used in child suicide were stored unlocked^v;

WHEREAS, In the State of Washington, an average of 61 children and teens die by guns every year, and Black children and teens are 2 times as likely as their white peers to die by guns^{vi};

WHEREAS, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 79 % of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and 80 % of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home or the home of a relative or friend^{vii};

WHEREAS, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keeping students and schools safe, and research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85% reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens^{viii};

WHEREAS, Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America's Be SMART program which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns, and King County has made resources (including King County's Lock It Up program) available to the public including translated materials that include SPS' top six languages spoken by our families;

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle's Responsible Storage Law went into effect February 13, 2019;

WHEREAS, Washington State law can impose criminal and/or civil penalties on adults when a child gains unsupervised access to firearms that are not stored securely;

WHEREAS, Keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites and in our communities; and

WHEREAS, a national coalition of organizations has designated the first Friday in June, as the National Gun Violence Awareness Day, beginning in 2015 to honor Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade in 2013 and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later who should now be

celebrating her 24th birthday, and the more than 100 Americans whose lives are cut short every day and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Day on the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, the Seattle School Board renews our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe,

AND, THEREFORE we encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives, and help educate their communities about safe storage of firearms in the home, and to support this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange (the color worn by hunters for safety) on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to raise awareness about gun violence, and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors.

PROCLAIMED this _____ day of _____, 2021

Chandra N. Hampson, President

Brandon K. Hersey, Vice President

Lisa Rivera-Smith, Member-at-Large

Zachary DeWolf

Erin Dury

Leslie S. Harris

Liza Rankin

ATTEST: _____
Dr. Brent C. Jones, Interim Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Directors
Seattle School District No. 1
King County, WA

ⁱ Azrael D, et al. Firearm storage in gun-owning households with children: Results of a 2015 national survey. Journal of Urban Health, 2018.

ⁱⁱ Morgan, Gomez, Rivara, and Rowhani-Rahbar, "Firearm Storage and Adult Alcohol Misuse Among Washington State Household with Children," *JAMA Pediatrics*, December 3, 2018

ⁱⁱⁱ Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, "Unload, Lock, and Separate: Secure Storage Practices to Reduce Gun Violence," September 3, 2019

^{iv} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics

^v Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2014 to 2018. Children aged 0 to 17.

^{vi} everytownresearch.org/EveryStat and *Arch Pediatric Adolescent Med.* 1999; *Journal of Adolescent Health* 2008 everytownresearch.org/EveryStat ⁶

^{vii} Everytown, AFT, & NEA, "Keeping Our Schools Safe: A Plan for Preventing Mass Shootings and Ending All Gun Violence in 7 American Schools." 2020

^{viii} Monuteayx, Azrael, and Miller, "Association of Increased Safe Household Firearm Storage with Firearm Suicide and Unintentional Death Among US Youths," *JAMA Pediatrics* 173, no.7 (2019)

Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries. *Journal of the American Medical Association.* 2005;293(6):707-714.