



**Alexandria City School Board Resolution on
National Gun Violence Awareness and Safe Gun Storage**

Whereas the first Friday in June has been designated as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, also known as Wear Orange Day; and

Whereas the Alexandria City School Board first adopted a Resolution Against Gun Violence on March 8, 2018 and has reaffirmed this resolution each year; and

Whereas a core value of Alexandria City Public Schools is to ensure a welcoming environment where students feel safe, valued and engaged in learning; and

Whereas Alexandria City Public Schools is committed to developing practices and programs that encourage common goals around safety, security and healthfulness; and

Whereas firearms became the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States beginning in 2020; and

Whereas an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; and

Whereas every year roughly 350 children in America under the age of 18 gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else; and

Whereas more than 700 children living in America die by gun suicide every year; and

Whereas more than 370,000 students have experienced gun violence at school since 1999; and

Whereas three-quarters of school shooters acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative; and

Whereas secure gun storage saves lives, and 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

Whereas, in accordance with Virginia Code 18.2-56.2, it is unlawful for any person to recklessly leave a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any child;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board directs the Superintendent to send information in the top five languages home to parents and guardians in back-to-school communications and at other appropriate times during the year informing them about the importance of secure firearm storage and the legal obligation to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns;

Be it further resolved that Alexandria City Public Schools will continue to collaborate with community partners, Alexandria PTA units, local law enforcement and health agencies to highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns and encourage secure firearm storage practices, and that such information will be maintained on the ACPS website and may be promoted more broadly through other communication channels;

Be it finally resolved that the Alexandria City School Board continues to call upon the United States Congress and Virginia General Assembly to prioritize the protection of students and school employees by passing legislation that more effectively regulates access to firearms in the interest of public safety.

Adopted at the **DATE** School Board Meeting:

Meagan L. Alderton

W. Christopher Harris

Tim Beaty

Tammy Ignacio

Kelly Carmichael Booz

Michelle Rief

Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi

Ashley Simpson Baird

Jacinta Greene