


# AB 1943: Secure firearm Storage Notification in Schools

## SUMMARY

AB 1943 will update and expand the ways secure firearm storage information is shared by schools to maximize parent/guardian attention and engagement.

## BACKGROUND

In 2022, California became the first state in the nation to require school districts and charter schools to distribute a notice regarding California's child access prevention laws and laws relating to the secure storage of firearms. This notice is required to be provided annually to parents and caregivers at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school year.

Secure firearm storage is essential for protecting lives and strengthening the safety of our communities. One study estimates that if half of households with children that contain at least one unlocked gun switched to locking all their guns, one-third of youth gun suicides and unintentional deaths could be prevented. This would save an estimated 251 lives in a single year.

## PROBLEM

Since 2022, several states have followed California's lead by adopting school-based secure firearm storage notification policies. These states have developed that help ensure families receive clear, timely, and actionable information. It is crucial that California updates it's secure firearm storage law; the underlying secure storage laws have changed since the original law was passed in 2022, and it is important implementation insights are now clear.

## THE SOLUTION

AB 1943 makes secure firearm storage notifications easier to understand, easier to find, and more likely to go to families at times when the information can be most impactful.

AB 1943 updates the content of Secure Firearm Storage Notifications and how the information is disseminated by:

1. Requiring that the materials focus more on information and resources regarding secure storage, including the risks of unsecured firearms, and be written in plain language that parents and guardians can understand;
2. Requiring school districts and charter schools to post the notification on their websites and encouraging them to share the materials on other digital platforms, including social media accounts;
3. Encouraging school districts to include secure firearm storage information when providing notice to parents or caregivers about disciplinary actions or in-school support given to a student due to threats against other students or threats of self-harm;
4. Requiring that the Department of Education include the secure firearm storage notification as an example of information that can be given

to parents about reducing access to lethal means in suicide prevention materials and training given to schools; and

5. Encouraging school districts to distribute the secure firearm storage notification when giving parents and caregivers advance notification of active shooter drills.

**CONTACT**

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