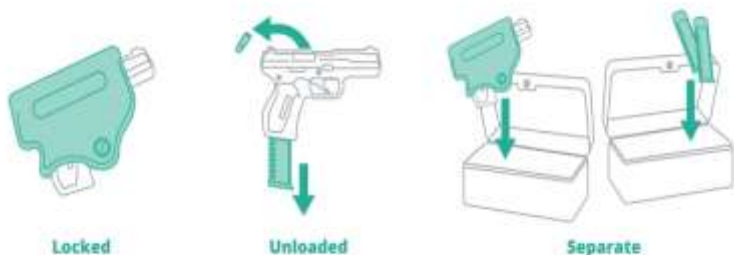


Providing our students and staff with a safe educational environment remains one of our highest priorities. Our safety concerns extend beyond the COVID-19 pandemic to include our students' mental health and the risks of youth injury or death from unsecured firearms in homes. California Education Superintendent Tony Thurmond has asked all schools to send parents information regarding the legal requirements for safely storing firearms at home. Safe storage obligations and best practices to protect minors from negligent gun storage for our community and safety for our students.

## **Assume children and teens can find guns. Store firearms **locked, unloaded and separate** from ammunition.**



BeSMARTforKids.org

California Penal Code Section 25100 mandates that in all homes where children live (or where children might reasonably be expected to enter), firearms must be safely stored. Gun owners can avoid criminal penalty by keeping their firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable. Orinda and Moraga have safe storage ordinances, which state that any firearm in your residence must be safely stored or securely disabled unless you are carrying it on your body or it is within your immediate control. Orinda Municipal Code Section 9.13.010; Moraga Municipal Code Section 9.12.010. The Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda police departments offer free Project Childsafe Gun Locks to anyone who drops into the police stations.

Since the onset of COVID-19, gun sales have increased dramatically in California and throughout the United States. At the same time, our students' mental wellness has suffered and the risk of suicide has increased. Keeping firearms securely stored prevents children from accidentally accessing firearms and unintentionally shooting themselves or others and also prevents older children from using an unsecured firearm to commit school violence or suicide, scenarios that we have seen happen too often in our county.

We encourage you to view [this short video](#) regarding the Be SMART principles of firearms safety. These links provide additional [information about firearms and ways to stay safe](#) and [Everytown for Gun Safety](#).