



OLTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

PO Box 388 • Olton, TX 79064 • (806) 285-2641

September 1, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

[Texas law](#) now requires school districts to distribute information to parents and guardians about the [safe storage of firearms](#). The attached information will help you learn about options for, as well as how to talk to your child ([English](#) [Spanish](#)) and others about, the safe storage of firearms.

In 2021, 4,613 Texans experienced gun-related deaths. The Texas Department of State Health Services (SHS) reports that 55% of Texas firearms deaths in 2020 were suicides and that 59% of all suicides in Texas were by firearms. Suicide attempts involving firearms have a 90% fatality rate. **Restricting access to guns ([English](#) [Spanish](#)) is critical in reducing acts of violence, whether as self-harm or towards others. Acts of mass violence and interpersonal violence often end in suicide.**

It is unlawful to store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to the firearm. Under [Texas Penal Code 46.13](#), a person commits the offense of making a firearm accessible to a child if the child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person with criminal negligence:

- Failed to secure the firearm; or
- Left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

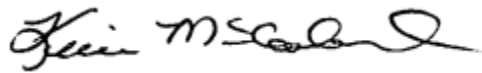
The penalty for allowing a child access to a firearm can range from a Class C misdemeanor (punishable by a \$500 fine) to a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a \$4000 fine, a year in jail, or a combination of the two).

Texas exempts the purchase of firearm safety equipment from [Texas Sales and Use Tax](#).

Remember, a gun should be stored unloaded in a safe or locked container, with ammunition stored elsewhere. You can learn more and find additional resources from the Texas Department of Public Safety at <https://safegunstoragetexas.com>.

Safe gun storage ([English](#) [Spanish](#)) is critical to preventing suicide, unintentional shootings, and other tragedies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin McCasland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McCasland".

Kevin McCasland
Olton ISD Superintendent
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