

Assembly Member Karen Bronga

District 5 East Anchorage

A0 2025-25

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 8.25.060 TO EXPAND PRINCIPAL LIABILITY TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF MINORS POSSESSING DEADLY WEAPONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS OR AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS.



Why Is this Ordinance Needed

90% of the shooters are current or former students

- 75% of school shooters obtained their weapons from their homes.
- In 2023 5.6% of Alaska students and 3.5% of Anchorage students reported having carried a weapon to school on at least one day in the 30 previous days
- As of 2022 Alaska had the fourth highest firearm child mortality rate amongst all fifty states⁽¹⁾
- From 2018 to 2022 firearms were the leading cause of death for children ages 1-17 in Alaska ⁽²⁾

See <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/alaska>. Accessed on Jan. 30, 2025.

2. Id. 3. See ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey – District Survey Results (I2023). A

Legislative Background

- I. The authority to regulate firearms and knives has been reserved to the State, except as specifically provided by a statute, the Municipal government's ability to regulate firearms and knives has been substantially preempted by **Alaska Statute (AS) § 29.35.145**
- II. **AS 11.61.210** outlines various offenses related to misconduct involving weapons, including the possession of firearms on school grounds by students. **HOWEVER**; it is silent as to whether a parent or guardian may be prosecuted a principal for criminal conduct of a minor.
- III. **AS 11.16.110** provides that a "person is legally accountable for the conduct of another constituting an offense if (1) the person is made legally accountable by a provision of law defining the offense;"

Alaska State law:

Under Alaska law, a person who is 16 years of age or older, may possess a firearm. A person under 16 years of age must have the consent of a parent or guardian to possess a firearm. You must be at least 21 years of age to apply for a concealed handgun permit. These exceptions apply:

A public or private school for grades K-12, including the school grounds, parking lot or on a bus while used for school sponsored activities, unless the person carrying the firearm has the permission of the chief administrative officer of the school or the school district.

Any place where intoxicating liquor is sold for consumption on the premises, except a restaurant where the person carrying the firearm did not consume intoxicating liquor.

Any licensed childcare facility or licensed assisted living home for the elderly or for the mentally or physically disabled, if the facility is other than a private residence.

Within a courtroom or office of the Alaska Court System, or within a courthouse that is occupied only by the Alaska Court System and other justice-related agencies.

Guns in the Home Statistics

4.6 million children nationwide and 12,380 Alaskan children are living in homes with unsecured firearms, and surveys indicate that only 44% of gun owners keep **firearms** secured in the home.

[Guns in the Home Statistics: - Ammo.com](#)

ammo.com/articles/guns-in-the-home-statistics

Low Gun States vs. High Gun States and Children

In 2002, The Journal of TRAUMA Injury, Infection, and Critical Care Published a study:

1. It found a statistically significant correlation between rates of high gun ownership and the rate unintentional firearm deaths of children.
2. Children living in the high-gun states (Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and West Virginia) were:
 - A. 16 times as likely to die from unintentional firearm injury,
 - B. 7 times as likely to die from firearm suicide,
 - C. 3 times as likely to die from firearm homicide and, overall, and
 - D. twice as likely to die from suicide and homicide.”

...than children living in the low-gun states (Hawaii, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Delaware).

This was between 1988-1997, where the overall number of high gun states reported 253 unintentional firearm deaths of children, while low gun states reported 15.

Self Defense by Guns is Quite Rare

More Guns Do Not Stop More Crimes, Evidence Shows: Scientific America
October 2017

“Every time a gun in the home was
used in a self-defense or
legally justifiable shooting, ●
there were
four unintentional shootings, ●●●●
seven criminal assaults or homicides, ●●●●●●●
and 11 attempted or completed suicides.” ●●●●●●●●●●●●

FEB 12, 2024

THE RISKS OF GUN OWNERSHIP: BY THE NUMBERS

7x

Greater likelihood for those living with handgun owners to be shot by their spouse or intimate partner, compared with those living in a gun-free household

6x

Greater likelihood for those living with handgun owners to be intimidated with a weapon than be protected by one

3x

Greater likelihood for those with access to firearms to die by suicide, compared with those without access

2x

Greater likelihood for those living with handgun owners to die by homicide, compared with those living in a gun-free household

<1%

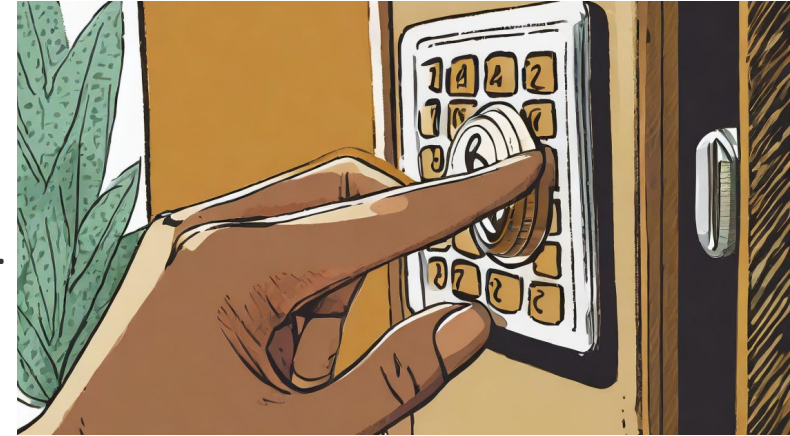
Difference in injury rates between victims who use a gun defensively and victims who take no action



Safe and Secure Gun Storage

SafeStorage

This ordinance will not require safe storage but may encourage it.



"Safe gun storage saves lives. As a pediatric intensive care physician, I see children who are critically injured and even killed after gaining access to unsafely stored firearms. One in three children in the US lives in a home with a gun, and children know where guns are stored in their homes, even when parents think they don't know. Keeping guns stored unloaded and locked prevents unauthorized users (such as children) from getting access to and then getting injured by firearms in their homes."

- [Katherine Hoops, MD, MPH](#)
Assistant professor, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medicine

What Has Anchorage School District Done



- Secure all firearms in your home and vehicles;
- Model responsible behavior around firearms;
- Ask about the presence of unsecured firearms in other homes;
- Recognize the risks of teen suicide;
- Tell your peers to be SMART.

- in 2022 Anchorage School District began partnering the BE SMART campaign to disseminate information about safe storage of handguns, offering trigger locks,
- Anchorage School district also employed a text platform, STOPit, to allow students to anonymously report bullying, harassment and weapon sighting.
- Anchorage School District is also using metal detectors on a rotating basis at middle school and high schools.

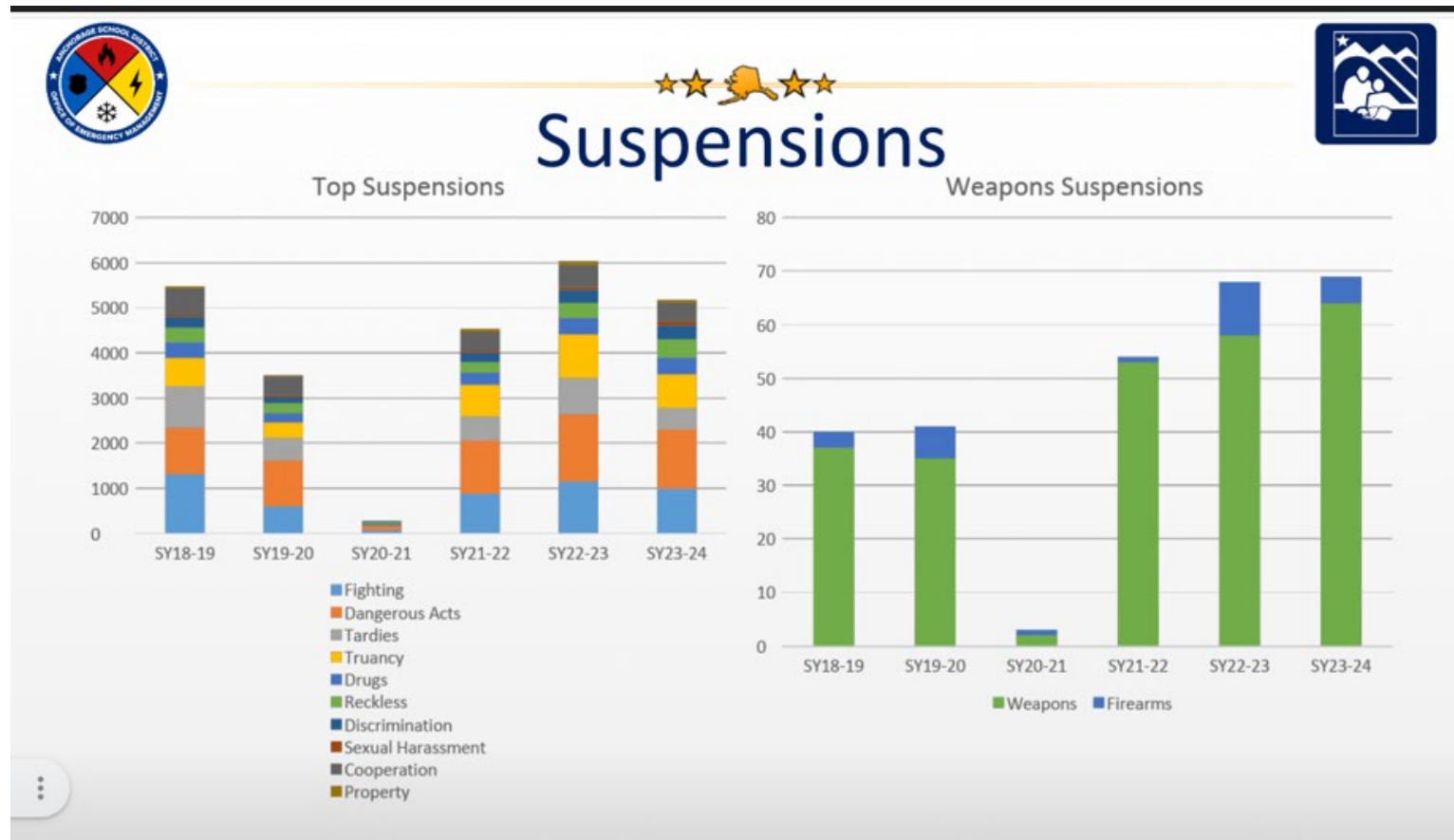
ASD's NO GUNS Policy

The Anchorage School District has a strict policy against the possession and/or use of weapons or items designed to look like weapons on school property or at school-sponsored events.

Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, pellet guns, stun guns, shockers, knives, clubs, metal knuckles, Nunchucks and throwing weapons. Students possessing weapons are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Students possessing guns on school grounds may be recommended for expulsion.

- Source: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/14708>; Retrieved 2/28/2025

ASD's Weapons Related Suspensions



AO 2025-25 wants to amend AMC 8.25.060

Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) section 8.05.040 makes no distinction between "an accessory before the fact and a principal, or between principals in the first and second degree."

AO 2025-25 wants to amend AMC: 8.25.060, which states:

Firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds.

A. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly have in possession or control within the grounds of or on a parking lot of a public or private preschool, elementary, junior high or high school, on a school bus while being transported to or from school or a school-sponsored event, or while participating in a school-sponsored event, [a deadly weapon].

What the Ordinance Will NOT Do

1. It will not take away your rights to own a gun.
2. It will not take away the right for your 16 year old to own a weapon.
3. This will not force you to store your gun in a safe or lock your weapon.
4. This will not invite government into your home.

What The Ordinance Will Do

8.25.060 Firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds:

1. Makes the parent/guardian culpable for violation by a minor child. When the child brings a dangerous weapon to school grounds.
2. The parent will be prosecuted as the principal, if prove that the parent or guardian either authorized the minor to and possess the weapon or stored the weapon in a criminally negligent manner.

Thank you!

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