

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 30, 2024

Chancellor David C. Banks  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Banks:

I write to urge you to ensure that the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) takes active steps to share information regarding safe firearm storage with as many parents and families in our communities as possible.

As you know, earlier this year the Biden Administration [announced](#) new actions to promote the safe storage of firearms in an effort to combat gun violence. A key part of this comprehensive approach involved the U.S. Department of Education [issuing](#) new resources for school officials to share with parents and families on the importance of safe firearm storage to ensure that weapons do not end up in the wrong hands or accessed by children. However, school principals and administrators are not required to share this information which means that without further encouragement, this potentially lifesaving information will not reach parents, families, guardians, and caregivers.

Recent [data](#) suggests that approximately 4.6 million children live in homes with unsecured firearms, posing clear risks to their safety, and as many as 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else every year. When guns *are* securely stored, the risk of children and teenagers accessing them and potentially causing harm to themselves or others - whether intentionally or accidentally - significantly [decreases](#). Proper storage is crucial for preventing tragedy and it is vital that our schools play a role in keeping our kids safe from the dangers of gun violence. Given the importance of understanding the benefits of secure firearm storage, I respectfully ask information on the following:

- Has the NYC DOE partnered with community-based organizations to help improve understanding of safe firearm storage and broader gun violence prevention efforts?
- Is safe firearm storage currently a part of NYC DOE's overall school safety and emergency preparedness efforts?
- Is the NYC DOE aware of the resources recently made available by the U.S. Department of Education regarding secure firearm storage? If so, what steps has the NYC DOE taken to ensure this information is shared with parents and families? How many school administrators and principals have communicated and shared this important information? How many families have been contacted?
- If not, will the NYC DOE commit to formalizing a communication strategy to ensure school administrators send this information to families? If so, please provide a detailed update on the implementation of this strategy and its progress.

Thank you for your partnership and I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress