

## Fact Sheet: Education on Conflict Resolution and Gun Lethality in Schools


### Education on Gun Lethality

In North Carolina, education efforts on guns seem to primarily focus on gun owners, including veterans, to educate and encourage the safe storage of firearms. Further, statistics on gun deaths, or education on gun lethality, is a secondary rather than a primary focus.


- A 2-year firearm safe storage education initiative was approved as part of Senate Bill 41 in March 2023, which also ended the pistol permitting requirement and expanded the ability to carry a concealed weapon in some situations. However, no funding was included for the education initiative.
- In June of 2023 the NC Department of Health and Human Services launched NC S.A.F.E to raise awareness of the importance of safe firearm storage. The campaign includes a website, social media ads, and advertising on city buses. The website – [www.ncsafe.org](http://www.ncsafe.org) – provides best practices on firearm storage and social media posts to share as well as flyers for gun owners, parents, pediatricians, and SROs.

### Safe Firearm Storage: You Have Options


If you own a gun, it's your responsibility to safely secure it. There are a range of affordable and effective options to meet your individual needs.




**Cable Lock.** A cable lock threads through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent someone else from firing it.




**Gun Case.** A gun case is a safe place to secure your firearms at home and beyond. The case can also protect your firearms from damage.



**Gun Safe.** A gun safe is the most secure choice for locking up your firearm. Gun safes come with a variety of lock options, including electronic and biometric locks.



**Lockbox.** A lockbox can be portable or bolted down for additional security. There are also options designed specifically for use in vehicles.




**Trigger Lock.** A trigger lock fits easily over the trigger guard of a firearm to prevent the trigger from being pulled.

**Keep It Secure**

Lock your firearm every single time. Follow these tips to keep your firearm secure:

- If your lock uses a combination or code, choose one that can't be easily guessed by children or other unauthorized users.
- If your lock requires a key, make sure you hide the key somewhere it can't easily be found.
- Lock your firearm regardless of whether it's in your home or in your vehicle.
- Consider storing ammunition separately.

### How To Talk About Safe Firearm Storage



As a school resource officer, you can play a key role in spreading the word to parents and others in your community on the importance of properly securing their firearms.


**Help us spread the word about the urgent need to secure all firearms effectively.**

Here are a few ways you can help:


- **Learn the Facts.** The talking points on the back of this flyer can help direct your conversations about safe firearm storage.
- **Distribute Information.** Distribute our parent flyer at sporting events and other public activities.
- **Host a Presentation.** We offer everything you need to host a presentation on safe firearm storage. Visit [ncsafe.org/resources](http://ncsafe.org/resources) to view and download our presentation materials.
- **Engage Your Administration.** Talk with school leadership about how they can spread the word – whether it's through school newsletters, mailings, or social media.

Nearly 30% of North Carolina high school students reported it would take them less than an hour to get, and be ready to fire, a loaded gun without a parent or other adult's permission; for white males, it was 40%<sup>1</sup>


1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/2017/07/26/guns-in-the-home/> page 208-225




For more resources and information on safe firearm storage, scan the QR code or visit [ncsafe.org](http://ncsafe.org)



**NC S.A.F.E.**  
Secure All Firearms Effectively



To access all NC S.A.F.E. resources, scan the QR code or visit [ncsafe.org/resources](http://ncsafe.org/resources)



**NC S.A.F.E.**  
Secure All Firearms Effectively

- One educational program focuses on youth, the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, instructing participants on safe and responsible use of firearms.
- The NCDHHS is taking a public health approach to reducing violence and firearm misuse that lead to injury and death. In November 2022 they issued a white paper that explains why taking a public health approach makes sense and what it looks like, including promoting safe firearm storage as part of its harm reduction strategy. Access the white paper here: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/public-health-approaches-reduce-violence-and-firearm-misuse-leading-injury-and-death/open>

### Education on Conflict Resolution

- The NC Task Force for Safer Schools endorsed a 5-year State Action Plan for School Safety in 2021. The Action Plan includes education on safe firearm storage. Additionally, it says schools should “Adopt evidence-based, universal, supplemental, and intensive social and emotional learning (SEL) and mental health strategies that promote cognitive and socioemotional development and increase connectedness to schools and peers, in PK-12 classrooms.” SEL teaches students how to handle stress and grief, **resolve conflicts**, manage their emotions, and more.
  - The N.C. State Board of Education’s Strategic Plan includes SEL and many schools have incorporated it into their curriculum. See the Department of Public Instruction’s Webpage on Social and Emotional Learning at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/nc-social-and-emotional-learning>

### Sources:

Fernandez, Jennifer and Blythe, Anne, *NC launches safe firearm storage initiative* (June 2023) at <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2023/06/06/nc-launches-safe-firearm-storage-initiative/>  
[www.ncsafe.org](http://www.ncsafe.org)

NC State Action Plan for School Safety at [https://files.nc.gov/ncdps/documents/files/StateActionPlanforSchoolSafety\\_digital.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/ncdps/documents/files/StateActionPlanforSchoolSafety_digital.pdf)

Quattrocchi, Alessandra, *EdNC Toolkit: Best practices for preventing and responding to in-school violence* (September 2022) at <https://www.ednc.org/ednc-toolkit-best-practices-for-preventing-and-responding-to-in-school-violence/>