WHEREAS, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

WHEREAS, according to the National Firearms Survey of 2015, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

WHEREAS, every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That’s roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

WHEREAS, another 590 children die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

WHEREAS, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 79 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and 78 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative’s home, or from friends;

WHEREAS, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

WHEREAS, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns that encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

WHEREAS, keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

WHEREAS, in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent and the District to cooperate and collaborate with local law enforcement agencies, the Mayor’s Office for the City of Tucson and health agencies to collaborate, create and distribute secure firearm
storage training materials, and increase efforts to inform the district community of best practices regarding the secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Adopted this 10th day of March, 2020.

Tucson Unified School District Governing Board

Kristel Ann Foster, Board President
Leila Counts, Board Clerk

Bruce Burke, Board Member
Adelita S. Grijalva, Board Member

Rachael Sedgwick, Board Member