TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

October 30, 2026

Dear Superintendents:

In the wake of the heartbreaking tragedy experienced by our fellow Oregonians in the Bend-La Pine School District, I know this has been a challenging time for you and your educators. When one school is hurt, we all hurt. I know we will all continue to keep the Bend community in our thoughts and do everything we can to support them.

As school leaders, you have a profound responsibility to ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and protected in our schools. While we cannot eliminate every threat, schools and families play a critical role in keeping children safe. We must act with urgency and take every reasonable step to prevent injury and protect our students. The Oregon Department of Education has teamed up with the Oregon Health Authority's Injury and Violence Prevention Program to create a straightforward document to share with families, which is attached.

I am requesting that by Friday, November 6, every school district share this guidance with parents and caregivers in order to provide practical steps for improving firearm safety in the home. In addition to the one-pager, I am providing a template letter that you can use in your communication with families.

Gun violence prevention requires a shared commitment by adults to make sure state laws are understood and best practices followed. I would ask that you consider sharing the attached guidance on regular intervals with parents and caregivers, at least two times during the school year.

Thank you for your leadership, your care for students and staff, and your continued commitment to safe and welcoming schools.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

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