

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - MI SAFE: Schools

What is this study about?

This study aims to better understand how school districts across Michigan are communicating information related to the state's secure firearm storage requirements (MCL 380.1313a, 380.1313b). We are interested in learning what approaches districts are using, what challenges they may be experiencing, and what support may be helpful moving forward.

Who is conducting the study?

This study is led by researchers at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. The study is funded by the National Institute of Justice (15PNIJ-24-GG-02403-STOP) and overseen by U-M Institutional Review Board (HUM00265093). More information about the study can be found on the [MI SAFE - Schools website](#).

Who is eligible to participate?

Public school districts in Michigan, including Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Public School Academies (PSAs/charter schools), are eligible.

What does expressing interest involve?

We ask that the interest form be completed by a superintendent or someone authorized to express interest in research participation on behalf of the district. Completing the interest form simply lets our team know that your district may be open to learning more. It does not commit your district to participation.

How are districts selected?

We will select approximately 30 school districts from those who express interest, using a random sampling approach to ensure representation from across the state. If your district is selected, a member of our research team will follow up to share more details and confirm your interest before any participation begins.

What would participation involve?

Participation is designed to simply document activities schools are already doing, with minimal additional burden. Our team will provide guidance and ongoing support throughout the project.

Before July 2026, schools will:

- Submit a brief letter of support and a simple work plan to meet Institutional Review Board (IRB) and compensation requirements (templates and guidance will be provided)

During the study period (August 2026–June 2027), schools will:

- Share information about any safe storage communications you are already sending to parents/caregivers
- Send up to three emails to distribute a short parent/caregiver survey

A subset of districts may also be invited to participate in a focus group or interviews. Additional compensation will be provided for those participants.

Is there compensation for participating?

Yes. Districts selected to participate will receive **up to \$2,000** compensation in recognition of their time and contributions. Additional compensation will be provided if selected for case studies, for focus groups and interviews.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have any questions about the study or the interest form, please feel free to contact us at UMsafestorage@umich.edu