

# SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces

*APPROVED by Governor May 31, 2024. Effective July 1, 2024.*

## **Overview**

This law bans the carrying of firearms in sensitive spaces as recognized by the US Supreme Court. Knowingly carrying a firearm, either openly or concealed, is banned in government buildings, including their parking areas. The act includes exceptions for police, armed forces, security personnel and other lawful exceptions. The bill permits a local government to enact a law permitting carrying at a local government building included in the act. The list of prohibited spaces includes child care centers licensed by the department of early childhood and public or private elementary, middle, junior high, high or vocational schools in addition to private colleges and universities. The act maintains exceptions in existing law for carrying a firearm on the property of a public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school.

## **School Impact**

Open carry is already banned in schools, but this law also prohibits concealed carry. Barring a relevant exception, this law bans firearms in schools unless a local government explicitly enacts a law permitting the carrying of firearms. The act includes exceptions for law enforcement officers, members of the United States armed forces or Colorado National Guard, security personnel, persons carrying as part of the lawful and common practices of a legal proceeding, and persons who hold a permit to carry a concealed handgun who are carrying a concealed handgun in an adjacent parking area. For local exceptions, stay abreast of local government decisions or opt-outs related to this law.

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*Sponsors: Sen. Sonya Jaquez Lewis (D), Sen. Chris Kolker (D), Rep. Kyle Brown (D), Rep. Mandy Lindsay (D)*