

February 9, 2026

Dear Cheltenham Community,

I'm writing today to alert you to the fact that several student Cheltenham High School groups have organized a schoolwide walkout for Wednesday, February 11 from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This demonstration, while not school-sanctioned, is intended to protest the tactics and presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

While the administration respects our students' right to free speech and values the expression of their diverse perspectives, we must also maintain our commitment to instructional integrity and student safety. Please be advised of the following expectations:

- **Attendance and Grading:** For attendance purposes, students who choose to leave class during instructional time will be recorded as having an **unexcused absence** for that portion of the day.
 - We ask that parents remind their child(ren) to **check in using the ScholarChip system** upon returning to the building. This allows us to ensure that all students have safely returned and are properly accounted for.
- **Safety Protocols:** Our primary objective is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff. Leaving the classroom or school building without authorization creates significant safety concerns and is a violation of school rules.
- **Campus Security:** For security reasons, only Cheltenham High School students and staff will be permitted on school property during the protest window.

Instruction will proceed as scheduled for all students who choose not to participate. Staff members will be stationed to supervise those who do leave class to ensure an orderly environment.

These measures are not intended to discourage student expression, but rather to uphold our obligation to maintain a safe and productive learning environment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian W. Scriven
Superintendent of Schools