



TRACY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"The future belongs
to the educated"*

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Sent Via Parent Square

Dear TUSD Families,

We would like to reiterate information that has been shared with you over the past few weeks regarding safety and student walkouts/protests.

While the District recognizes that students have a constitutional right to peacefully protest, we also have a responsibility to keep our students as safe as possible. The law allows students to receive **one excused absence per school year** for participation in a civic or political event. Many families contacted schools to excuse their student's absence for the protests that occurred over the last two weeks. Those students **will not receive a second excused absence** if they choose to leave campus to participate in additional walkouts or protests, as they will be marked as **unexcused (truant) and will receive the same consequences as with any other unexcused absence.**

We strongly encourage students who wish to express their views to do so **peacefully while remaining on campus.** When students stay on campus, we are better able to ensure a safe and supervised environment and to limit outside influences, including adults or students from other schools who may hold differing political views.

Across the nation, off-campus student protests have, in some cases, resulted in unsafe situations. Some of these incidents included physical and verbal attacks on various groups and protesters blocking roadways and traffic. Our goal is to prevent our students from being exposed to potential harm. Just last week, we had an incident with an outside influence that required District Administrators and Tracy Police Department intervention. Had this situation escalated, there was a real possibility of danger for students who were protesting off campus.

We value our partnership with families and ask for your support in keeping students safe. We urge you to have open and frank discussions with your students about these expectations and the importance of remaining on campus. We will continue to work with the Tracy Police Department and the community to keep our students safe. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we work together to prioritize student safety.

Sincerely,

Robert Pecot, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RP:be