

February 18, 2026

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

As Superintendent of Tracy Unified School District, I am writing again to address recent student walkouts and to ask for your partnership in ensuring student safety and continued engagement in learning during the school day.

I respect the important role free speech and freedom of expression play in American society. Over the past several weeks, various schools in our district have had students leave campus during the academic day, both with and without parental permission, a decision that puts both their safety and academic success at risk. The most recent walkout participants were middle school-aged students.

I want to take this opportunity to clarify attendance procedures and safety, so parents and guardians understand their options.

- **Moving forward, students who are off campus during the school day will be without school staff supervision and at risk of accident or injury.**
- Students may not leave class or campus during the school day unless a parent or guardian checks them out through normal school procedures.
- When students leave without following these procedures, the absence is recorded as unexcused. (California law recognizes students' right to participate in civic action by allowing only **one excused absence per year** for this purpose, provided families notify schools in advance and follow standard checkout procedures)

Our schools will continue to show our commitment to our students by providing a safe environment on school grounds where they can safely and respectfully express their opinions.

With this in mind, we ask that you take time to talk with your student(s) about the importance of learning and being in class, and to remind them of the safety risks posed by leaving campus during the school day unsupervised. Your partnership is essential in helping us ensure both the safety and academic success of every student.

We appreciate our students' engagement, our families' support, and our shared commitment to keeping Tracy Unified School District schools safe, respectful spaces for learning and expression.

Sincerely,

Robert Pecot, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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