



DELANO JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MEDIA STATEMENT (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) March 19, 2026

Recent reports regarding allegations involving César Chávez are deeply concerning. According to multiple accounts, several women have alleged that Mr. Chávez sexually abused girls and women during the 1960s and 1970s.

As a school district with a school bearing his name, we recognize the heightened concern within our campus community and the broader public. We are committed to approaching this matter thoughtfully and responsibly, with care for the impact on our students, staff, families, and community members.

Moreover, we understand that this news may be deeply upsetting. Our priority remains the safety, well-being, and trust of those we serve. The District stands firmly against all forms of abuse and violence and remains committed to fostering safe, respectful, and inclusive environments where every student, staff member, and visitor feels valued and supported.

To ensure we are responding appropriately and transparently, the District is taking the following steps:

1. Support for Survivors and Accountability

The District believes in supporting individuals who come forward to share experiences of abuse. Reports indicate that survivors have spoken publicly for the first time after decades of silence. We encourage anyone affected by these reports to seek support, and we will make counseling and additional resources available to students and staff.

2. Reviewing the Naming of César Chávez High School

In light of the seriousness of the allegations, the District will be initiating a formal review of the name of César Chávez High School. Other jurisdictions in California are already reevaluating places and public spaces named after Mr. Chávez following the publication of these allegations. Our process will be transparent, community-informed, and aligned with District policy regarding school naming and renaming procedures. The District had no planned activities or celebrations related to the upcoming César Chávez holiday due to timing of Spring Break this calendar year.

3. Commitment to Open Communication

We understand that families may have questions, and we commit to keeping our community informed throughout this process. Opportunities for public comment and engagement will be announced in the coming days.

4. Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

Regardless of historical controversies, our mission remains unchanged: to ensure that every student learns in an environment that is safe, supportive, and reflective of our core values.

We encourage our community to approach these discussions with empathy for survivors, sensitivity for students, and respect for the diverse experiences and perspectives within our District.