



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Statement from Superintendent Carl Cohn

In response to the walkout and protests this week, and in anticipation of larger exercises tomorrow, San Diego City Schools Superintendent Carl Cohn has issued the following statement:

"While the district supports students' rights to free speech, we believe students belong in school. We are working with our schools to encourage students who want to voice their opinions on these or other matters to do so outside of the regular school day.

Throughout the week, students across the state, including many in San Diego City Schools, have walked out of schools to protest pending immigration legislation. As this has continued, it has raised more and more concern for the safety and security of our students and staff, both on and off our campuses. These protests have also raised safety concerns for our communities as students make their way from one location to another.

Our goal is to minimize disruption at our schools, and to focus on using these protests as an educational lesson for our students. This has become increasingly challenging as students march from one school to another and incite students to leave campus. This behavior often creates an almost uncontrollable situation and is extremely disruptive to the staff and students who are trying to teach and learn.

I have requested the San Diego City Police Department and our school district police department to utilize appropriate steps, including enforcement if necessary, to ensure the safety and security of all San Diego City School campuses. We will not tolerate unlawful behavior that jeopardizes the safety and welfare of the majority who remain on campus.

Students must understand, and parents must reinforce, acceptable, lawful behavior. Students who choose to break the law, or incite others to do so, will be subject to arrest by law enforcement personnel. It is imperative that we maintain order in and around our schools.

We call upon our parents and responsible community members to stand with us as we work to provide a safe school environment for all of our students and employees."

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