

## Elementary March 14 National School Walkout Guidelines

**Goal:** Provide a safe, neutral environment that honors student voice and action.

Below are the guidelines for the March 14 National School Walkout as we balance our efforts and responsibilities to uphold school safety for our staff and students.

We have met with and gathered ideas from our principals, accessed the many resources from the County, researched the stance of ACLU on this matter, read guidance from law firms, considered guidelines from State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson, and listened to the verbal thoughts and emails from our community.

### Elementary Guidelines:

- At the **elementary** level schedule a morning recess for **all students** that falls at the 10:00-10:17 timeframe. During the recess time, provide a safe, supervised place for students who elect to participate and want to assemble on campus from 10:00 – 10:17 AM.
- Employees who are on duty are obligated to fulfill work responsibilities.
  - At the **elementary** level, stagger teacher supervision during the recess to create a safe recess for all students. Should you need support with a schedule, please contact your supervisor ASAP.
  - It is critical for staff to remain neutral during this event. Any employees that supervise in the assembled area, must stay neutral and maintain safety.
  - Remember, not all students will want to participate in the National School Walkout event and we need to ensure supervision on the playground. It will be important not to discuss the issue in the playground for students who elect not to participate.

Our goal is to provide a safe, neutral environment that honors student voice and action, as we balance our efforts and responsibilities to uphold school safety for our students and staff.

## Secondary March 14 National School Walkout Guidelines

**Goal:** Provide a safe, neutral environment that honors student voice and action.

Below are the guidelines for principals as we balance our efforts and responsibilities to uphold district attendance policies and school safety of our staff and students. At the end, we have provided a template for you to send out regarding March 14<sup>th</sup> National School Walkout, staff and community.

We have met with and gathered ideas from our principals, accessed the many resources from the County, researched the stance of ACLU on this matter, read guidance from law firms, considered guidelines from State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson, and listened to the verbal thoughts and emails from our community. We also had an interest in being consistent with our response district wide.

### Secondary Guidelines

- Keep school schedules as they are for instruction, breaks, etc. and encourage students to remain on campus to assemble. There will be no academic penalty for students who elect to walk out to the assembled area. Teachers can reduce the impact of lost class time by not assigning tests or work that requires make up. Again, we would like students to stay on campus where we can safely monitor the student gathering. Students are expected to return, without incident, to class at 10:17 a.m.
- Employees who are on duty are obligated to fulfill work responsibilities.
  - It is critical for staff to remain neutral during this event. Any employees that supervise in the assembled area, must stay neutral and maintain safety. (We will follow up with attached guidelines for staff.)
  - Remember, not all students will want to participate in the National School Walkout event and we need to ensure supervision in the classroom/campus. It will be important to remain neutral about the issue in the classroom/campus for students who elect not to participate. However, teachers can guide students through discussions on key topics in classes such as Government, history, civics, and language arts.
- Poway Unified School District student attendance procedures will be followed as usual.
  - A student voluntarily electing to leave class, and their parents, should understand that regular attendance procedures will apply if students don't return to class after the National School Walkout event.
- Meet with students to discuss what they want to do to ensure student voice. Engage with them to understand why they are planning their activities. IF students want to go off campus, strongly encourage them to designate a place on campus where they can still fulfill their voice (activity). We need to ensure their safety by providing safe options (gym, fields, etc.) on our sites.