



SAN FELIPE DEL RIO CISD

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For Immediate Release

SFDR CISD FOLLOWS TEA GUIDANCE REGARDING STUDENT WALKOUTS, ABSENCES AND EDUCATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Last week, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) released guidance regarding student walkouts, absences and actions related to political activism in response to Governor Greg Abbott's directive to investigate instances of inappropriate political activism deliberately disrupting the learning environment in Texas public schools.

Actions Required of School Systems

School districts have the responsibility and duty to keep students safe as they seek to help them learn. With news of student walkouts happening across the state, this guidance is a reminder that students are not free to engage in speech that disrupts the school learning environment. Students must face the consequences of their actions during the school day, if they walk out or encourage other students to walk out of class. Consequences may include but are not limited to the following:

- Assigned unexcused absence
- Potential loss of the ability to receive credit or final grades for classes missed.
- Other applicable disciplinary consequences including but not limited to disruption of the school's learning environment, insubordination, and/or leaving school property.

It is also inappropriate for educators to neglect students released onto public streets with no supervision or parental notification or to facilitate disruption by encouraging students to leave campus during instructional hours. Instead, educators should take affirmative steps to prevent students from disrupting education during the school day. In addition, educators must adhere to all provisions of the Educator Code of Ethics and adhere to all local policies regarding conduct in the workplace. The freedom of expression does not include the right to disrupt an orderly learning environment. Teachers and other staff that facilitate walkouts will be subject to investigation and sanction.

Complaints

SFDR CISD takes of student conduct and potential educator misconduct very seriously. Individuals with concerns regarding student protests or educator involvement in student protests should immediately contact the school principal. The administrative staff will review and determine if any local district policies were violated and take appropriate action.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) also takes allegations that educators or school systems have violated state law seriously and will investigate these complaints thoroughly. If violations of law are found, the agency will take appropriate action to ensure that state law is upheld, and school systems and certified educators will be sanctioned accordingly.

[TEA News Release](#)