

DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

HAYS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement Regarding Possible After-School Protests

Hays CISD is aware that, after school today, young community members who also happen to attend several Hays CISD campuses may be protesting U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE). The district appreciates that student leaders who have been organizing the protest on their own accord, and the participants, have designed a creative solution to solve the challenges that emerged this week when the concepts of expressing First Amendment rights and respecting disruption-free instructional time at school intersected.

There can be no doubt that children, families, and community members across the political spectrum all have deeply held passions and lived experiences that are driving the voices in this difficult and very personal national conversation. The district, including the Board of Trustees, administration, and campus leadership, values student voice and recognizes students as thoughtful leaders and the future of the community. The district supports their right to free expression and peaceful advocacy within the law, district policy, and TEA requirements. Students are encouraged to continue learning, engaging, and standing up for their beliefs in ways that are safe, lawful, and respectful of the educational environment. And, the district continues to hope that all students, regardless of their positions on the issues or choices whether to participate in after-school protests, will use these occasions as learning opportunities to better understand their rights, freedoms, and civic responsibilities.

The district also wishes to extend its deep appreciation to the men and women of local law enforcement and first-responder agencies who continue to work tirelessly to keep children and students safe. It is a testament to the strength of the communities within Hays CISD that so many caring adults always have the best interests of the youth at heart.

Please be mindful that protests may be occurring around the Kyle and Buda areas. Drivers can help local law enforcement by avoiding protest areas if they are not participating. Please be extra cautious and patient in traffic should you find yourself in the vicinity of a protest.

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