



Dear FUSD Families and Staff,

We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of promising young lives in Parkland, Florida. As parents and educators, we grieve together while remaining focused on ensuring our own schools are safe.

Our Superintendent and Governing Board take the safety of all our students, staff, and teachers very seriously and we are continually implementing measures to tighten our security procedures.

We have a strong relationship with law enforcement officials, including the Flagstaff Police Department and Coconino County Sheriff's Office, who assist us in refining our procedures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to all types of threats and hazards.

All community members play a critical role in the lives of our children. We ask for your active support and help in keeping students safe. We take very seriously the trust parents place in our staff each day when sending students to school. We regret our district and community have experienced firsthand the feelings of fear and disruption caused by threats to our schools and we are actively investigating and addressing these previous threats, while acting to prevent future occurrences.

The Flagstaff Unified School District supports our students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and free expression and are aware of student-led events planned for March 14, March 24 and April 20.

Our approach and response to these planned protests will be to:

- Keep focus on teaching and learning while providing guidance that supports student and staff safety.
- Encourage student organizers to meet with their school administrators to collaborate on the planning of orderly demonstrations on campus. We suggest student organizers consider invitation and participation efforts that are open and inclusive of ALL students, and respectful of those who choose not to participate.
- Provide additional staff and law enforcement officials for protection and supervision, not to suppress student expression.
- Establish that conduct that disrupts school operations is not acceptable and will be handled compassionately but firmly in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

Finally, we want to see an end to school violence. We oppose suggestions to bring more guns into our schools by administrators and teachers, rather we advocate for:

- Funding to support schools' security efforts and training.
- Reasonable restrictions on access to weapons.
- Increases in mental health services and the availability of school counselors.

We recognize these occurrences are difficult for children to process. For anyone seeking emotional support, we encourage you to speak with a school counselor or site administrator. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best Regards,

Kara Kelty, Carol Haden, Christine Fredericks, Carole Gilmore, Kathryn Kozak, and Michael Penca  
FUSD Governing Board and Superintendent