

Subject: Attendance and Safety Expectations for Friday

Dear Families,

Many of you may be aware that a small number of students had been discussing a potential “walkout” as a way to express dissatisfaction with events occurring in our country. This raised concerns about possible disruption to campus operations.

We can share that the students involved have since decided to pursue more effective and appropriate ways to express their concerns, and the walkout has been canceled. We appreciate the maturity and good judgment shown in making that decision and choosing a better path forward for everyone involved.

Although the students have made it clear the walkout has been canceled, it is still possible that individual students may choose to disrupt campus operations. For that reason, we want to be very clear about expectations moving forward:

- Any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct—whether related to protest activity or counter-protest activity—will receive consequences in accordance with district policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the law.
- Any student who earns an unexcused absence for any portion of the school day may face consequences, including but not limited to:
 - Noncompliance with state compulsory attendance laws (including attendance court)
 - Impact on exam eligibility
 - Disqualification from participation in certain extracurricular activities, events, or celebrations
 - Other consequences consistent with the Student Code of Conduct

This is not a joking matter, and we ask all parents to discuss this seriously with their student(s).

Recently, due to similar events at schools around the state, the District received communication from the Texas Education Agency reminding school systems that student attendance at public school is compulsory under Texas Education Code §25.085 and governed by the Student Attendance Accounting Handbook. Districts are required to follow these requirements, and failure to do so may result in audits or further action by the agency, “which can include the appointment of a monitor, conservator or board of managers [underline added for emphasis].” We take this responsibility seriously.

Out of an abundance of caution, we will have an increased safety presence at Midway High School on Friday, February 6. This is intended to ensure a safe, orderly school day for students and staff.

We live in a time marked by division and unrest. The Midway ISD community has consistently shown that we can do better—by being neighborly, caring, and respectful. It is my hope that how we respond in this moment reflects those values and allows us to remain the best version of ourselves.

Thank you for your support and partnership.