Policy

**STUDENT PROTESTS, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND STRIKES**

*Code* **JIJ** *Issued* **DRAFT/19**

The board believes students benefit from being active participants in democracy. Therefore, the board recognizes the rights of students to dissent peacefully, and it is committed to striking a proper balance between students’ right to free speech and expression and the district’s responsibility to ensure safety and order in its schools.

**District Response**

Upon the receipt of credible information that a protest, demonstration, strike, or similar expressive activity may foreseeably occur and may result in a material or substantial disruption of the school environment or otherwise impinge on the rights of others, the building-level administrator will contact the superintendent to begin implementation of response efforts as detailed in the district safety plan.

Because student safety is paramount in every situation, the (*option: superintendent, building-level administrator, etc.*) may seek support and assistance from the school resource officer and/or local law enforcement, as appropriate.

District staff will provide supervision as necessary and appropriate during a protest, demonstration, strike, or other similar expressive activity to ensure that order is maintained. A staff member, while acting pursuant to his/her official duties in his/her capacity as a district staff member, will remain neutral and will not offer opinions about the underlying issue for which the expressive activity is occurring.

**Student Consequences**

While student expression is encouraged at an appropriate time and place, and in an appropriate manner that does not disrupt the school environment, students who violate the district Code of Conduct before, during, or after a protest, demonstration, strike, or other expressive activity will be subject to disciplinary action. Students will not receive more severe consequences for Code of Conduct violations in the context of an expressive activity than for any other violation.

Students may receive unexcused absences for participation in expressive activities if these activities result in missed class time. These absences will be treated as any other unexcused absence for purposes of the Code of Conduct, opportunities to complete make-up assignments, participation in afterschool activities, etc.

Cf. JH, JICDA

Adopted ^

Legal References:

A. Federal Cases:

1. *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).