



N U S D
NATOMAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Guide to Honor Student Voice:

NUSD Student Demonstration / Protest / Walk Outs (DPW) -
Overview

NOVEMBER 2021



Our Why

Schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills and values needed to effectively participate in our democracy by having classroom instruction in social studies subjects; discussion of current events; service-learning; extra-curricular or co-curricular activities; student voice in school governance; and simulations of democratic processes.

We recognize the need to support students who engage in the community, express their student voice, and participate in civic action to gain knowledge about controversial issues. Natomas Unified School District wants to lead by example on what good participatory citizenship looks like by actively reaching out to our constituents, including students; and appropriately supporting the vision of the District so that students' interests are best served. We want all students to feel safe and valued, be excited about coming to school, and confident in their belief and ability to be successful.

In recognition of events and concerns that prompt protests and civic action, Natomas Unified provides guidance, protocols, and resources to assist and support schools, students, and parents.

Safety will remain our top priority so that our students' education remains our focus.

How

To allow our students' voices to be heard, we encourage all participants to:

- Keep empathy and humanity the focus of our conversations
- Involve families, students, staff and our community
- Be honest, trusting, non-defensive and transparent
- Stay intentionally focused
- Be action-oriented
- Be respectful and open to all voices; an impartial approach is key
- Be cognizant of safety protocols and procedures, including substitute scenarios

WHAT

- Review safety protocols and procedures with all staff
- Orchestrate supervision in classrooms and common areas as assigned
- Utilize grade level/subject matter appropriate plans for in-class discussions and lessons
- Provide annual expectation that site staff review controversial issues policies and regulations
- Consider forums, assemblies, lunchtime activities, and/or other alternatives for students to express their voices
- Provide teachers/other staff with policy reminders and resources

