

Dr. R. Stephen Green
Superintendent/CEO



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February 22, 2018

Dear parents,

Students across the nation, including some of our own students, have staged peaceful protests in response to the Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy in Florida and the discussion around gun control legislation during the past few days.

We can expect similar demonstrations in the days ahead, including national protests set for March 14, March 24 and April 20.

The DeKalb County School District supports students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and free expression. However, our top priority is to support the academic and social emotional needs of our students while maintaining a safe and orderly environment for all students and staff. We also respect those students who choose not to participate in these planned events.

If a student walkout or protest happens in one of our schools, we will allow the students to peacefully protest. We encourage our students to be respectful. Please understand that the Student Code of Conduct remains in place and will be enforced during these times. We will not tolerate behavior that disrupts school operations or threatens the safety and order of our schools.

It can be a teachable moment where students can demonstrate their First Amendment right to be heard, knowing there are natural consequences to civil disobedience.

If your child is feeling overwhelmed, please reach out to your school administrator for support and guidance. We are here for our students and families during this turbulent time in our society.

Thank you for your continued support of your district and your school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Stephen Green".

Dr. R. Stephen Green
Superintendent/CEO