



# ALHAMBRA

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## UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 2018

## Alhambra USD Guidelines for Families: National Walk-Out to End School Violence on Wednesday, March 14, 2018

*Student safety first, balanced with right to freedom-of-speech, goals of the day*

Dear Alhambra Unified School District Families,

The recent shooting deaths of students and teachers in Parkland, FL, have sparked a national student movement to end school violence. As part of the movement, there is a call for a 17-minute National Student Walk-Out to honor the 17 lives lost on February 14th at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The National Student Walk-Out, slated for Wednesday, March 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:17 a.m., is something we ask you to talk about with your children. Because the ultimate mission of the District must always be to safeguard all of our 17,000 students and 2,500 staff, AUSD wants to share with you the best practices and our guidelines for keeping children and staff safe, while also granting your student their right to freedom of speech:

- We ask that your children, if they decide they want to participate in the Walk-Out, gather at the safe, on-campus designated area, where administrators, teachers and staff can ensure they are safe at all times. When students leave campus, we are unable to watch over them and problems with security emerge.
- Student leaders and administrators at each campus have created a variety of positive, peaceful, on-campus ways for students to express their support of the end of gun violence.
- Students may wear the signature color orange to signify their solidarity with the movement.

- It is within your child's legal right to support the campaign to end school gun violence, but in the process, your child cannot endanger others or put others at-risk. We ask that neither does your child put herself or himself at risk.
- Leaving campus is unwise and we ask your student not to leave, and instead, participate in the various on-campus ways each school is creating to best draw attention to making schools safe.
- Since safety is the whole point of the effort, we ask you to remind your children to be safe, act wisely and with honor to remember the lives lost.
- While AUSD employees have the right to wear orange in solidarity with the effort to end school violence, neither the District nor its employees may impose any political or personal views onto students.
- School will begin and end at the regular hours. The daily bell schedule will remain the same, with minimal disruption to instructional time, and with time provided for those students who want to express their support of the movement.
- Please check the new Safety link on the District website [www.ausd.us](http://www.ausd.us) for ongoing and updated information.
- When students, families, and employees work together, we are each safer and our community flourishes.
- Thank you for having this important conversation with your family. Please reach out to me at 626-943-3410 if you have questions or concerns.

With profound appreciation and commitment,

*Laurel Bear*

Dr. Laurel Bear  
Assistant Superintendent Student/Employee Welfare