

## **November 21, 1 PM - ALL STAFF MESSAGE**

**Subject:** Supporting Our Students and Families

Gwinnett County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, welcoming place for every student, every day. We know our schools serve families from many backgrounds, languages, and immigration experiences. Our responsibility is to ensure that all students feel protected, cared for, and ready to learn, grow, and thrive.

We understand that news about immigration actions locally and nationally can create fear or uncertainty for some students, families, and staff. Please continue to focus on our students and respond with empathy, kindness, and professionalism. If a student or family member expresses worry about safety at school, remind them that our focus is on learning, belonging, and student well-being.

**A reminder about procedures if law enforcement or immigration officials (including ICE) come to a district campus:**

- Our district does **not ask for or document information about the immigration status** of any student or family. It is important to understand that, by law, a child's immigration status (or that of their parents) does not affect their right to receive a public education.
- Direct all ICE or other federal immigration officials to the **principal or designee** if the principal is off-site who will immediately contact the district's Chief of Staff for guidance. Treat officials as you would any visitor, but **do not** give access beyond the main office or vestibule and **do not** share information.
- ICE officials **must have a judicial warrant** to enter school property beyond the normal visitor area.
- **Do not share** student, family, or staff information, including where a student is or personal details. FERPA protects student records. **No student record may be released without proper legal documentation and approval from the district office.**
- If a judicial warrant is presented, and when possible, the school will make an effort to notify parents or guardians if there is a request to interview their child.
- **Continue normal school routines** unless directed otherwise by the principal.

**Our students depend on us to create a stable, caring learning environments.** We know that even talking about immigration enforcement can be frightening for students. Please:

- Respond with empathy and calm.
- Avoid making predictions or political comments.
- Connect students who show distress with a counselor, social worker, or trusted adult in the building.

**Thank you for continuing to show compassion, professionalism, and support for every student entrusted to our care.** Your commitment helps keep our schools safe, welcoming places where all students can focus on learning.

Committed to excellence, together,

Dr. Al Taylor

Interim Superintendent

## **November 21, 2 PM - ALL FAMILIES MESSAGE**

**Subject: A Caring Message for Our GCPS Families**

At Gwinnett County Public Schools, we want every student to feel safe, welcome, and ready to learn. We know our families come from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, and we are proud of the diversity that makes our community strong. We are proud to serve one of the most diverse communities in the nation, and we remain deeply committed to leading with empathy, equity, effectiveness, and excellence in all we do.

We understand that recent news about immigration actions around the country may cause stress or worry for some families. Please know that **your child's safety, well-being, and ability to learn in a peaceful environment are our top priorities**.

Here is what you can expect from GCPS:

- Our schools remain safe, caring, and supportive places for all students.
- GCPS staff are trained to protect student information and follow all district policies and procedures to keep our campuses safe.
- Our district does not ask for or document information about the immigration status of any student or family. It is important to understand that, by law, a child's immigration status (or that of their parents) does not affect their right to receive a public education.
- Student records are private and will not be shared with any outside agency without proper legal documentation required by law.
- GCPS will continue to follow our school safety procedures, district policies, and all applicable state and federal laws. We also follow clear legal guidelines about who is allowed to contact students during the school day.

If your child feels scared, anxious, or unsure, our school counselors, teachers, and trusted adults are here to help. Please reach out to your child's school if your family needs support, has questions, or has concerns.

Thank you for being a valued part of the GCPS community. We are here for you, and we remain firmly committed to your child's learning, safety, and well-being every day.

Committed to excellence, together,  
Dr. Al Taylor  
Interim Superintendent  
Gwinnett County Public Schools