

GCPS Talking Points for Conversations with Students & Families

Supporting Safety, Trust, and Student Well-Being



1. Our Commitment to Every Student and Family

- "In GCPS, every student is welcome and supported—no matter their race, nationality, ZIP code, language, or immigration status."
- "Our priority is your child's safety, well-being, and ability to learn in a calm, caring environment."
- "We know national conversations can feel stressful. We want you to know we are here for your family."

2. How We Keep Students Safe

- "Schools remain safe, caring, and supportive learning environments for all students."
- "GCPS follows all district safety procedures and all state and federal laws."
- "We do not ask for or track any information about a student's or family's immigration status."
- "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 protected by federal law. We cannot share personal or educational information without proper legal documentation."

3. If Students Are Feeling Worried or Confused

- "It's okay to feel nervous or unsure when there is a lot of news or conversation happening."
- "If you ever feel scared, anxious, or distracted, please let a trusted adult at school know."
- "Our counselors, teachers, and support staff are here to listen and help you."
- "You belong here, and you are safe at school."

4. How Staff Will Respond if Federal Officials Visit a School

(Only share these points when asked directly, using parent-friendly language.)

- "There are clear district procedures that staff must follow to keep students safe."
- "If any law enforcement official, including federal immigration officials, come to a school, they must speak with the principal. They cannot go beyond the main office unless they have the proper legal documents."
- "We will always follow the law and protect student privacy."
- "If a valid court document, like a judicial warrant, includes a request to speak with a student, the school will make an effort to notify the parent or guardian when possible."

5. What Families Can Do

- "If your child has questions or is feeling anxious, please talk with them and remind them they are safe and supported at school."
- "If you need help or have concerns, you can reach out to your child's school at any time."
- "We want to partner with you to support your child's emotional well-being."

6. Reassurance & Closing

- "We are proud to serve all families in our diverse community."
- "GCPS is committed to leading with empathy, equity, effectiveness, and excellence."
- "Your child belongs here. Your family belongs here. We are here for you."