

Dear Washoe County School District Family,

As we prepare for the start of the new school year, I want you to know I am working with our Board of Trustees and making good progress on my 60-90-120 plan. Our workshop yesterday afternoon was productive, and I hope you were able to watch it as it was livestreamed. The taped meeting is posted [here](#), in case you missed it.

I also want to make you aware of a campaign encouraging our families to keep their students out of school. There is a flier being distributed urging families to bring their children to a rally in downtown Reno on Monday instead of taking them to school. The flier makes untrue statements about our District, so much so that I feel I need to give you the correct information.

This is deeply disturbing to me, because we all know that our students belong in school. In case you read or hear the information that is being circulated, I want you to be aware of the facts and I will deal with each in the same order as they appear on the flier:

- Fact: Washoe County School District is listed in the top 23% of districts nationwide, and Nevada has risen to 44th in the nation in education. A national report issued by U.S. News & World Report ranks 10 Washoe County School District (WCSD) high schools among Nevada's top 30 high schools.
- Fact: WCSD has implemented Social and Emotional Learning practices at schools throughout the District. Statistics show that students with higher social and emotional competencies in WCSD have reduced suspension, improved grade point averages, and improved attendance. Anecdotally, teachers note that students have increased abilities to manage stress and depression, and better attitudes about themselves, others, and school.
- Fact: Each year for the past two years, nearly 50 percent of our students graduated with Honors and Advanced Diplomas. This is a solid indication that they have achieved a high level of competence in their advanced and honors courses and that they are prepared for a successful future.
- Fact: The Board of Trustees has worked diligently to keep budget cuts out of our classrooms and away from our students. Cost-cutting measures included reducing administrative positions to 28 percent below national staffing averages and reducing the budget significantly in areas that have less impact on children.
- Fact: Parents have the opportunity to review and comment upon materials presented as part of the Sexuality Health and Responsibility Education curricula. These materials include plans that outline lessons in making informed decisions about sexual activity and relationships, HIV/AIDS awareness, gender identity, and reproductive issues.

I know we all work hard to create a warm and welcoming environment for our students and their families, so it can be frustrating when someone disseminates incorrect information and untruths. I am proud to be part of our WCSD family and equally proud of the work that you do.

As I have stated, we are all ambassadors for this great school district. I appreciate the contributions of each of you and will continue to correct inaccuracies in a proactive manner.

Take care,

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