



*City of Chicopee*  
**CHICOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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**Richard W. Rege, Jr.**  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Chicopee Public School Community,

The recent event in Broward County Florida and other tragedies on school campuses across the nation over several years have driven increased interest in student-led civic-engagement efforts and actions. A National School Walkout is planned on March 14, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. for 17 minutes.

Our goal is strengthening the community. The Chicopee Public School District will commit to balancing our students' right of expression with our duty to provide students a productive learning environment free from coercion, peer pressure and without obligation to conform to opposing views about the issues related to school violence.

We respect and support our students desire to advocate for causes that are important for them. In order to create an option for student participation in the National School Walkout that does not create a scenario for involuntary participation, our Administrative Team has come up with the following plan:

- Pre-K – Grade 5: Staff will provide age-appropriate activities for student participation or non-participation.
- Grades 6-12: Administrators and Staff have worked with student leaders to help plan and supervise civic learning activities to occur at specific locations.

All staff have been directed to avoid doing anything that could give the impression of enlisting students who do not wish to participate in this activity and to continue teaching those students who refrain from participating.

We have coordinated with the Chicopee Police Department for increased police presence and to provide additional safety measures for the event. This is not the first time we have been faced with a common challenge and will likely not be the last. I am confident that with the combined efforts of the entire community, we can emulate the change that we wish to see.

In a world of uncertainty, we will continue to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of the 8500+ students and staff members in the Chicopee Public Schools. Thank you, in advance, for your continued support during a difficult time in education and in helping to navigate the future for our students.

Sincerely,

**Richard W. Rege, Jr.**  
Superintendent of Schools