

WE STAND AGAINST HATE



THORNTON TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

Thornton Township High School District 205 is saddened by the impact and effect of the Israeli-Hamas war and its effect on our students, families, faculty, and staff. District 205 is a safe and inclusive community, and we unequivocally condemn any form of hate crime, discrimination, or bias. It is simply not tolerated within our schools or the communities we serve.

Children are the most vulnerable members of our society, and it is our collective responsibility to protect and nurture them. Hate crimes and discrimination inflict physical harm and long-lasting emotional trauma that can have devastating effects on their well-being. Therefore, the protection, safety, and overall well-being of our entire population of students and the communities we serve is of the utmost importance and priority.

Every child deserves to live, learn, and play in environments where they feel safe, loved, and accepted for who they are. Discrimination based on race, religion, gender identity, or any other characteristic has no place in our schools and no place in our society. We urge communities worldwide to come together and actively work towards creating inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and foster empathy. By promoting education, understanding, and respect from an early age, we can help prevent hate crimes and discrimination against children.

Furthermore, it is crucial for governments to enact stringent laws that address hate crimes and discrimination effectively while providing support systems for victims and their families. Additionally, we encourage our students, parents, faculty, and staff to report any instances of hate crimes targeting children promptly so that justice can be served.

Let us stand united in protecting the rights of every child and ensuring their safety from all forms of hatred. Together we can build a brighter future where every child thrives in their community, school, and in life without fear.

District 205 offers the following resources to our families who are impacted by effects of the Israeli-Hamas war:

- [How do I talk to my kids about violence in the news?](#)
- [UNICEF: How to talk to your children about conflict and war](#)

Resources for Educators

- [Education Week: How to Talk About the Israel-Hamas War: Resources for Educators](#)
- [Education Week: How Teachers Can Talk About Hard Things With Students](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists: Supporting Youth Affected by the Violence in Israel and Gaza: Tips for Families and Educators](#)

As part of our Safe Schools Initiative, District 205 will not tolerate acts of violence against anyone in our schools. We will call police to our schools to swiftly address acts and threats of violence. We are prepared to file charges against anyone who engages in acts and threats of violence, including hate crimes, and we will fully cooperate with police and the State's Attorney.

During these trying times, it is crucial for us to acknowledge the importance of unity within our schools and communities. By joining forces, we can showcase the power found in our diverse backgrounds. Together, we have the ability to foster an environment of empathy, understanding, and encouragement.

In these difficult times, we extend our wishes of fortitude, solidarity, and empathy to our students, families, faculty, and staff.



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