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March 13, 2018

Dear School of Excellence Parents and Guardians:

In the wake of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, students across the country are organizing demonstrations and walkouts in protest of school violence. SOE is aware that some of our students may be planning to participate in the National School Walkout Days planned for March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>.

In our school, we respect the right of our students to exercise their First Amendment rights and their opinions. Engaging in peaceful protest and advocating for a cause can be a powerful learning experience for students. We also recognize that our students hold a diverse range of views and some may not want to participate in a walkout. It is our responsibility to ensure all students feel safe and respected, no matter their viewpoint.

We want you to know our school does not endorse or host walkouts, nor does the school support any particular viewpoint or advocacy group. Our main concern with any potential walkout is safety. SOE will create a "safe zone" for students if they choose to participate. Our understanding is that the walkout is planned for March 14<sup>th</sup> and is expected to last 17 minutes, in honor of the 17 victims of the parkland shooting. For those students who choose to remain in class, teachers will instruct as normal.

Should a walkout occur, we will deploy staff as necessary to maintain student safety. We also want to note that middle and elementary school students will NOT be allowed to leave campus unless signed out and accompanied by a parent or guardian. Also, high school students that walk off campus, not using the "safe zone" or signed out by parents will be held to the walk-off guidelines of SOE.

We encourage you to talk with your student about these events and about important issues including school safety. If you have any questions or concerns about potential walkouts, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Susan Flores  
Principal, SOE

**WE SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH COLLABORATION, EFFECTIVE INNOVATION AND QUALITY SERVICES**

**Pikes Peak Board of Cooperative Educational Services**

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