



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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Statement of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal Regarding Students Leaving School to Protest at the State Capitol

Phoenix, AZ, March 4, 2011– Today, Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal released the following statement regarding the students who left school to protest at the State Capitol:

“I strongly support the right of every student to freely express his or her opinions about issues they find important. However, leaving the classroom and school grounds takes a student away from valuable instructional time and disrupts the ability of their fellow students to learn and teachers to teach.

To improve education, my team at the Arizona Department of Education and the leaders in these school districts are focused on supporting and creating a highly organized, disciplined classroom with well-supported teachers. The actions of those students who left school to protest today are detrimental to the educational well-being of all involved.

I applaud the efforts of those district administrators, teachers and students at Phoenix Union High School District, and at other school districts, who led campaigns to counter the coordination of the student protest. I am particularly proud of those students who, through their positive actions, clearly demonstrated they understood school policies need to be abided by, discipline and order in school is crucial to learning, and there is an appropriate time and place for students to exercise their First Amendment rights.”

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