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PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Pat Karlak
Public Information Manager
(714) 999-5662
Karlak_p@auhsd.us

AUHSD Revises Academic Incentive Program

The Anaheim Union High School District's primary objective is supporting student learning and ensuring that we are acting in their best interests by providing an environment that encourages all to grow and excel.

We also believe it is important to acknowledge and celebrate our students' successes, be it in the classroom, onstage, on the playing fields, or in the community. The incentive programs at two AUHSD campuses were implemented with the best intentions. They were designed to support and encourage students to do their best on a state test they are mandated to take, but which does not directly impact their academic success in school.

We know that the excellent work our teachers and support staff do every day on behalf of students is what prepares them to be successful in life, whether it be college or a career.

Yet, even with the best intentions, we recognize that innovative programs sometimes have unintended consequences that may impact some of our students. Although many of the students and parents on the two campuses are very proud of the program, we recognize that some students have negatively interpreted some components of the program. Therefore, we are modifying some aspects to address those concerns and ensure that all students feel supported on campus.

Students will no longer carry color-coded binders. Cypress High School and Kennedy High School will provide uniform binders and uniform school ID cards for all students, at no cost to them. The school ID card is used for identification purposes and for purchases and services on campus, including checking out books and buying lunch.

In addition, the privileges that are of a public nature, such as faster lunch lines, will no longer be in place.

However, because we believe having incentives can appropriately motivate students, we will develop another system for them to access the incentives. This is similar to acknowledging students for their participation in athletics, performing arts, extra-curricular activities, and community involvement.

We hope the community will continue to support our students and schools as we work through this issue. We are taking the concerns seriously, and regret any negative feelings the incentive program has caused some of our families.