



PRESS RELEASE

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El Monte Union Approves Settlement with California Attorney General, Establishes Enhanced Student Safety Protocols

EL MONTE – The El Monte Union High School District Board of Trustees has approved a settlement agreement with the California Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General, reinforcing the District’s commitment to student safety through strengthened oversight and enhanced protocols.

Approved during a March 18 special meeting, the agreement establishes enhanced protocols and comprehensive procedures for addressing allegations of bullying, harassment and abuse. It took effect March 20 and includes a four-year monitoring period to strengthen related systems.

“Student safety is at the core of everything we do,” El Monte Union Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. “This agreement strengthens our systems, improves accountability, and ensures we are providing clear, consistent support for students and families. We remain committed to fostering safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environments across all of our schools.”

The settlement outlines comprehensive measures to enhance accountability and ensure consistent, transparent procedures for responding to student safety concerns. As part of the agreement, the District will establish a Chief Compliance Officer position, reporting directly to the Superintendent, to oversee and track all complaints and investigations related to student safety and misconduct.

Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, El Monte Union will implement annual training for students, parents and guardians. Trainings will cover professional boundaries, definitions of grooming and harassment, reporting procedures, and available student support resources. Materials will also be accessible online.

Additional measures include the distribution of a “Defining Professional Adult–Student Boundaries” pamphlet to families, the implementation of a secure online system to manage complaints and case documentation and required written reporting by employees when concerns are shared verbally. Individuals who file reports will also receive a Notice of Rights outlining available processes and resources.

The District will also administer anonymous climate surveys to better understand student experiences and will establish a School Climate Advisory Committee to provide ongoing review and recommendations related to prevention and response efforts.

“El Monte Union will continue to work proactively to strengthen policies, support student well-being, and maintain safe, welcoming campuses for all students,” Zuniga said.

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The vision of the El Monte Union High School District is to empower and motivate our students to be resilient, college and career ready, lifelong learners and contributing members of our global society.