



IRVINGTON
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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An Important Message from the Superintendent

November 8, 2024

Dear Irvington School Community,

I am writing to inform you about an ongoing nationwide issue involving racist text messages being sent to individuals, including black and brown students, from unknown sources. These messages are offensive and harmful, and authorities are actively investigating their origins. At this time, we want to emphasize that there have been no direct threats to any schools in our community.

While we cannot control who receives these messages, we can control how we respond. If you or your child receives one of these messages, we urge you to take the following steps:

- Do not respond to or share the message. Sharing such content can perpetuate harm and may have serious consequences, including disciplinary or legal actions.
- Discuss the importance of responsible digital behavior with your child. Encourage them to approach an adult if they feel uncomfortable or threatened by any online interactions.
- Notify your child's principal

We stress the importance of not sharing or forwarding these texts, even as a joke or out of frustration. Doing so may unintentionally amplify their harmful impact and spread distress to others in our community.

As a district, we remain committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to either your school principal, counselor, or myself. Together, we can stand against racism and hate and ensure our schools remain a place of safety, respect, and learning.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mara Ratesic
Superintendent of Schools



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