

Supporting Israel & Fighting Antisemitism

November 8, 2023

Dear High School Administrator,

We write on behalf of the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department and the StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism, divisions of StandWithUs, an international, nonprofit education organization educating about Israel and combating antisemitism. We write to address an upcoming event planned to take place on high school campuses across the country that requires your immediate attention, as it appears to have the express intention of disrupting the school environment.

On November 6, 2023, we sent a <u>letter</u> to campus administrators addressing the hostile climate that exists for Jewish and Israeli students on many campuses across the country right now. Our letter identifies a variety of specific issues presented by antisemitic and anti-Israel activity, as well as recommended action items for administrations to take to best protect their campuses, including their student population. Unfortunately, some of these issues are impacting high school campuses as well.

It has since come to our attention that student organizations are planning an anti-Israel event walk-out on high school campuses nationwide this Thursday, November 9th.

The chosen title for many of these events includes the phrase "Shut It Down! For Palestine," indicating a clear intention to cause a material and substantial disruption to the campus environment, conduct that falls outside the protection of the First Amendment. As you are no doubt aware, public school officials need not wait for a riot or mass disruption but may in fact prohibit speech that presents a "<u>reasonable forecast of substantial disruption</u>." An event intended to "shut down" the school environment certainly satisfies this standard.

We urge your administration to address this issue immediately so as to avoid irreparable harm to your high school community, including Jewish, Israeli, and Zionist students and faculty.

Sincerely,

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