



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TCAPS Statement Regarding Student Conduct on Social Media

TRAVERSE CITY - Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) is aware of a very serious and inappropriate incident related to high school student behavior on social media. A snapchat termed “slave trade” similar to those being shared in other states have been duplicated in the region. TCAPS students appropriately reported the snapchat to school officials who immediately began an investigation into the matter. The school district continues to thoroughly follow its investigative and disciplinary procedures and responsibilities, including any requirements under Board policy and Title IX.

“We are disheartened to hear this behavior and activity has occurred in our community, particularly at a moment when our nation continues to grapple with issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging,” said Dr. John VanWagoner, superintendent of Traverse City Area Public Schools. “Our schools and school communities are committed to working tirelessly to provide safe learning environments for all students by prohibiting harassment due to an individual’s sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion or disability.”

TCAPS is reaching out to community partners for their ongoing support in helping to raise awareness around the need for our communities to embrace and celebrate all that makes us unique and special as individuals. TCAPS will also continue to do everything possible to ensure a safe and welcoming school environment and asks for parental support in helping to monitor non-TCAPS devices and outside of school activities.

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