



Roma ISD
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August 28, 2020

On August 26, 2020, Roma ISD announced a commitment to our community to assess and further expand as necessary our existing policies, handbook, practices, training and programs promoting the concepts of equality, acceptance, and student welfare within our District. The first priority of Roma ISD is to provide a high-quality education for our students, while also prioritizing student safety and welfare. The District is excited to take part in this process.

Roma ISD is pleased to state that we will announce plans to supplement existing programs by the end of next week. Roma ISD intends to approach this process thoughtfully and meaningfully; however, it cannot happen overnight. It is our desire and intention to consider the viewpoint and opinion of our students, parents and school officials, and to collaborate with those persons to fully respect and consider their perspectives. While the specifics of the District's plans are under careful review and consideration, the District anticipates they could include some or all of the following implemented by the end of the school year: (1) creation of supplemental policies or regulations to compliment and strengthen existing practices, (2) expansion of employee training, (3) creation of a committee of District officials and students to confer on our steps moving forward, and (4) other actions or initiatives as necessary.

Roma ISD has always supported educational policymaking and training programs and practices aimed at providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming educational environment for every student. The District's promotion of those ideals is not a new concept. The District has updated legal policies on these topics, which are provided by the Texas Association of School Boards that are in line with all state and federal requirements. For example, Roma ISD has existing written policies regarding equal education opportunities for all students, student welfare and freedom from discrimination, harassment and retaliation, and regarding freedom from bullying. However, there is room for review and possible changes to the administrative rules and regulations that are used on a daily basis in all of our schools.

The goal of developing programs to further promote equality and inclusivity is an ongoing process faced by all school districts. The refinement of that effort is not unique to Roma ISD. The District will take the necessary time to implement this process with careful consideration. Roma ISD is also working to communicate with other school districts, both in Texas and nationally, to assess how they have approached these topics.

Roma ISD is a strong community that is currently faced with the challenge of a pandemic and providing virtual instruction to 6,000 students. Even so, the District is working to send the message to all of its students, staff, and parents that Roma ISD is a safe place for all students to learn and be themselves. Roma ISD thanks and congratulates all of our teachers and staff for their commitment to distance learning during these unprecedented times.

"While we feel we do work every day to treat each child, staffer, parent and community member with respect, we know there is always room for improvement," said Roma ISD Superintendent Carlos Guzman. "We are committed to this process, we are committed to the protection of our students, and we are committed to the future of our community. We will continue listening and working for the betterment of Roma ISD, our city, our county, and our region. We have always thought of Roma ISD as a diamond shining bright in academics and so many areas: this is another area where we can lead and be an example. Again, I want to thank all of our teachers and staff for their dedication and hard work to keep our students focused on excellence."