

Plano Independent School District

Administration Center

2700 W. 15th Street, Plano, TX 75075

(469) 752-8100

www.pisd.edu



P L A N O
Independent School District

Dear Parents of Fourth and Fifth Grade Students,

This letter communicates some of the regulations regarding the implementation of the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act (see Policy FNA(LOCAL)). Provisions of this Act entitle your child as a fourth or fifth grade student to volunteer as an introductory speaker during daily announcements. The legislation specifies that students who are "in the highest two grade levels of the school" are eligible to volunteer to be introductory speakers at daily announcements. Additionally, this Act establishes a "limited public forum" for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. You may review this policy at the following Weblink: <https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/312?filter=FNA>.

If your child is a fourth or fifth grade student and wishes to participate, please secure a form from the principal's office. Forms will be available through Wednesday, August 24 and must be returned to the front office by the end of the school day on August 24 in order to speak during the first semester beginning on August 29.

During the first week of the second semester, the volunteer/assignment process will be repeated. During second semester, student forms are due by the end of the school day on Wednesday, January 11. Student speakers will begin on Tuesday, January 17. The principal or designee will hold a random drawing to select student introductory speakers from those who volunteer. Names of students who are drawn will be matched chronologically to the assigned speaking occasion.

If forms are not returned by August 24, your child will not be eligible to speak under the provisions of this policy in the first semester, but your child will have another opportunity to participate at the beginning of the second semester when the volunteer/assignment process is repeated.

Introductory speakers must meet certain eligibility criteria. For your convenience, this information is listed below:

Eligibility Criteria for elementary students:

- Students must be in the highest 2 grade levels of the school campus;
- Volunteer by completing and submitting the volunteer speaker form by the set deadline outlined above;
- Are not in a disciplinary placement at the time of the speaking event;
- For elementary schools eligible students are all fourth and fifth grade students;
- Have not previously violated the provisions of Policy FNA listed in section Contents of Student Introductions [see excerpt below from Policy FNA(LOCAL)]; and

FNA(LOCAL) excerpt:

- Student may not engage in speech that:
 - Is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent;
 - Creates a reasonable cause to believe that the speech would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others;
 - Promotes illegal drug use;
 - Violates the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person
 - Contains defamatory statements about public figures or others; or
 - Advocates imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action. [end excerpt].
 - Violates the provisions of Policy FNA(LOCAL) when serving as an introductory speaker by failing to speak on a topic related to a designated event, failing to stay on subject, or failing to stay within the reasonable and appropriate time limit as designated by the principal or principal's designee.

The assigned student, selected through the volunteer process, shall serve as an introductory speaker. Please see your principal or assistant principal if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Gober". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Courtney Gober

Assistant Superintendent for Student, Family and Community Services

Plano Independent School District