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State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Assures California Public School Students That They are Safe From Discrimination and Bullying

SACRAMENTO— State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson today issued a statement reassuring California public school students from kindergarten through grade twelve that they are all safe from discrimination and bullying:

“I know that the outcome of the recent Presidential election has caused deep concern among many students and their families. The nation maintains a strong tradition for the peaceful transition of power. And I want to let all of California’s 6.2 million public school students know that keeping them safe from discrimination and bullying at our great state’s 11,000 public schools is a top priority.

“In California, diversity is strength. Our students come from all kinds of backgrounds, cultures, languages, and religions, and they all come together to learn on their way to success in 21st century careers and college. California already has, and will always maintain, strong legal and state Constitutional protections against any and all kinds of discrimination, regardless of a student’s race, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

“And I want to tell young women and girls that they will always be safe, be respected, and be protected at school. As the proud father of two daughters, I know that girls can achieve anything, succeed at anything they choose, and earn the respect that they deserve every day at school, in the workplace, and in our communities. California moves forward, not back.”

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The California Department of Education is a state agency led by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. For more information, please visit the [California Department of Education](http://www.cde.ca.gov)’s Web site or by [mobile device](#). You may also follow Superintendent Torlakson on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).