

## **TIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact** Stacey Bettencourt, Superintendent/Principal (559) 752-4213 sbettencourt@tipton.k12.ca.us

## **Statement Regarding Student Arrest**

**February 5, 2019** – Tipton Elementary School District has learned of the arrest of a District student who made threats of harm against District students and staff. The District immediately reported the information to the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and the student is currently in custody.

The safety of our students and staff is top priority. The District takes these incidents very seriously and is continuing to work with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office as they investigate this matter. The District is committed to taking all steps necessary to prevent possible incidents of violence on campus. We are fully cooperating with law enforcement to investigate this matter.

We understand the community's desire for information. However, student information maintained by the District is highly confidential and protected from public disclosure under both state and federal law. As a result, we are obligated to protect the confidentiality of student information, even under the present circumstances. Please know that the District is working closely with law enforcement to timely provide appropriate information to our community as permitted by law and in consideration of the ongoing criminal investigation and process.

Our school counselor can be available to speak with students who wish to do so. If you ever witness or have knowledge of threats of harm made against District students or staff, please immediately make a report to the District via the SPRIGEO link located on the District website: https://www.tiptonschool.org.

The District also encourages all individuals who may have additional information regarding this matter to immediately report it to the Tulare County Sheriff's Department or Stacey Bettencourt, Superintendent/Principal, at (559) 752-4213.

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