



Template for Public Schools Week Op-Ed

This op-ed template is intended to help you communicate with families and the community, including those who do not have school-aged children and may not be engaged in local schools, about the importance of strong public schools. We hope you use it to give them a glimpse inside your school or district. We encourage you to tailor this template to your context, making edits and adding language to highlight issues that are important to your community. You can also use it as inspiration in thinking about the messages you want to send year round.

If the media outlet you are posting in allows it—or in lieu of posting in a media outlet—this commentary could also be posted on a personal, school or district website or blog.

[NAME OF SCHOOL/DISTRICT] Celebrates Public Schools Week March 25-29

With the future of our nation at stake, educators must speak out about the value of public schools. [NAME OF SCHOOL/DISTRICT] is joining thousands of other schools this week to celebrate the second annual Public Schools Week. Strong public schools build the knowledge and skills young people need to succeed in the global, knowledge-based world. Public schools are providing more opportunities for more than 50 million students who are learning and growing inside our school buildings—so these young people can become college ready, career ready and life ready following high school graduation.

[NAME OF SCHOOL/DISTRICT] has [NUMBER OF] teachers and staff who are teaching [NUMBER OF] students the skills they need to succeed in the global, knowledge-based world. Our teachers, principals, and all the educators and support staff are key to helping our students succeed and [name of community] thrive.

We are preparing every student to become college ready, career ready and life ready following high school graduation. This includes a rich curriculum that includes and goes beyond basic academics; updated technologies and training to help students navigate complex online information; and helping students apply their classroom lessons to the real world. **GIVE EXAMPLES supporting these claims, such as: using math and science skills to build robots; conducting advanced chemistry experiments; growing**

their own healthy food in the school garden; learning conflict resolution skills as peer mediators; or conducting exciting research using primary source documents they access on the internet.]

[NAME OF SCHOOL/DISTRICT] offers students and families an array of specialized programs and opportunities to ensure that all students' needs are met and that they are prepared for their future. These opportunities include [GIVE EXAMPLES, such as advanced classes, group and individual tutoring, enrichment programming, dual enrollment, career activities and more.]

We have worked hard to build a safe, supportive, and welcoming education community where all students are treated fairly and with respect. Our dedicated teachers, principals, school counselors and other school staff are committed to providing the best education possible for our students. Many of our teachers and other staff have taken classes and other professional development opportunities over the summer to help hone their skills and keep them up-to-date on how to teach our students what they need to know to be ready for the future.

We welcome our families and community members to get engaged and see the great things that are happening at [NAME OF SCHOOL/DISTRICT]. (IF POSSIBLE) GIVE EXAMPLE OF EVENT OR INVITE COMMUNITY TO A SCHOOL EVENT TO SEE STUDENTS IN ACTION. To keep up-to-date and see what's going on throughout the year, [INSERT OPORTUNITY TO JOIN A COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL, such as following a Facebook page or Twitter account, or signing up for a regular newsletter].

We are #PublicSchoolProud.

Learn more about Public Schools Week and participating organizations at www.publicschoolsweek2019.com

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