

As Head of School Should I Respond to This Flashpoint?

In today's climate, news of incidents of incivility spreads quickly across independent school campuses and beyond. An increase in headlines touting breakdowns in civil behavior has left many heads wondering: what do I do if my campus is next?

Heads of school must have a decision-making policy that delineates when to respond to incidents on and off campus. Use the following infographic to help create a framework that ties a decision to respond to your school's mission and campus impact.



Respond

Head of school should issue a statement on behalf of the school



Questions to Consider

- ▶ What topics directly impact our students, campus, or community?
- ▶ What topics are specifically relevant to our school or mission?
- ▶ What values have we consistently advocated for in our community?

Characteristics

Flashpoint has direct impact on school, topic aligns with mission



Consider Response

Head of school should convene rapid response team to determine if institutional response is appropriate



Questions to Consider

- ▶ What topics could directly impact our campus down the line?
- ▶ What values do we prioritize as a school, including those in our mission statement?
- ▶ What topics reflect multiple, diverse viewpoints within our community?

Characteristics

Flashpoint has indirect impact on school, topic aligns with mission



Do Not Respond

Head of school should avoid making statement about incident or topic



Questions to Consider

- ▶ What topics do not directly impact our students, campus, or community?
- ▶ What topics are unrelated to our mission?
- ▶ What topics do not affect, or could negatively affect, our financial sustainability?

Characteristics

Flashpoint has indirect or no impact on school, topic does not align with mission

