

# Politics out of Schools Act

Stanley Kurtz

WHEREAS, true civic education is not political action itself but rather preparation for, and prerequisite to, mature political life; and

WHEREAS, respect for the liberties of students and teachers, the views of a politically diverse citizenry, and the tradition of institutional political neutrality that flows from these, means that political activism has no place in formal education; and

WHEREAS, granting excused absences for political student walk-outs invites political favoritism from school districts and places inappropriate political pressures on non-participating students, neither of which have a place in the public education system of [state name]; now, therefore,

## **BE IT ENACTED:**

### **SECTION A:**

- (1) Excused absences from school for purposes of political protest, social or public policy advocacy, or attempts to influence legislation or other governmental policymaking at the local, state, or federal level shall not be granted in [state name].
- (2) Neither academic standards, nor teaching standards, nor education standards of any kind, nor curriculum, nor teacher professional development, nor regulations in [state name] shall promote or permit student walk-outs for purposes of political protest, social or public policy advocacy, or attempts to influence legislation or other governmental policymaking at the local, state, or federal level.
- (3) Unexcused absences for purposes of political protest, social or public policy advocacy, or attempts to influence legislation or other governmental policymaking at the local, state, or federal level shall be treated as acts of truancy and shall not be treated in a manner that is different from other acts of truancy.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

- (1) “School” means K–12 public school.