



# Redlands Unified School District

## Press Release

November 8, 2018  
Attn: News Desk  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
No. 2018-08-11-03

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**Press Release --- Thursday, November 08, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

### **Redlands Unified School District announces arrest of former employee**

REDLANDS, Calif. – The Redlands Unified School District (RUSD) received notice of the arrest of former employee, Joel Koonce, stemming from allegations of child molestation and child pornography.

Mr. Koonce was hired by the District in September of 2016. At the time of his hire, and in compliance with the District's uniform hiring practices, the fingerprints of Mr. Koonce were cleared through the Department of Justice and reference checks were conducted. Mr. Koonce's employment with RUSD concluded in November of 2017 while he was still a probationary employee.

In October of 2017, a mandated report was made to both Child Protective Services (CPS) and the Redlands Police Department (RPD) as a result of an employee report. Mr. Koonce was subsequently placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation. The District was informed that both of the investigations did not lead to any findings of wrongdoing on Mr. Koonce's part.

In the abundance of caution, the District took further steps to submit notice to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) in November of 2017. Again, it was reported back to the District that wrongdoing was not substantiated.

Based on a totality of issues, the District determined that it had lost confidence in Mr. Koonce as a teacher and therefore, chose to act swiftly by exercising its right not to re-elect Mr. Koonce for the following school year.

In light of information that continued to surface beyond Mr. Koonce's employment with the District, additional mandated reports were filed by District employees with CPS and the RPD in July of 2018 and as recently as October of 2018.

RUSD is cooperating fully with the RPD on this matter. While the investigation of Mr. Koonce is active and ongoing, RUSD is imploring anyone who may have information to contact Detective Elyzabeth Green at (909) 335-4714.

For more news and notifications about the Redlands Unified School District, visit our website at [www.redlandsusd.net](http://www.redlandsusd.net) and follow @RedlandsUSD on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.

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