

Resolution Regarding the Board's Commitment to a Safe Zone for Learning

WHEREAS, [school district name] is committed to ensuring that *every* student develops the enduring knowledge, skills, and character to thrive in a changing world; and,

WHEREAS, it is our commitment to our community that our schools will create a safe and caring environments and that our schools will foster a culture of trust and respect; and,

WHEREAS, we commit to providing a safe environment where all are treated equally regardless of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, age, immigration status, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, disability, or need for special education services. This means that all children are embraced as full members of our school community, and that all students have a right to an education, regardless of any differences, including immigration status; and,

WHEREAS, any resident of the state of Texas who has attained the age of six years and is under the age of 21 years is entitled to attend public school in the school district where he or she is a resident; and,

WHEREAS, under United States Supreme Court law, all children are entitled to a public education regardless of their immigration status or the status of their parents; and,

WHEREAS, every student should go to school to learn, to engage with their teachers and classmates, and know they will be safe; and,

WHEREAS, we want our community to know that schools and classrooms are safe and inclusive places for all students and all families; and,

WHEREAS, many migrant families and children have fled their homes and are seeking asylum in the U.S. from grave threats of danger; and,

WHEREAS, there are reports of families who are worried about sending their children to school for fear of deportation occurring while their children are in school, or that immigration officials may involve our schools in enforcement action;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [school district name] Board of Education

Declares this District to be a Safe Zone for its students; meaning that the District is a place for students to learn, to thrive, and to seek assistance, information, and support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience;

Declares that our schools shall be safe, inclusive, supportive, and positive environments and shall provide a haven for all students and their families;

Declares that all students have a legal right to an education regardless of any differences, including immigration status, and that our district will continue to advocate for and embrace all students as full members of our school community;

Declares that the [name of district] will continue to take any and all actions authorized by law and our policies to provide equal opportunities and safe learning spaces for all of our students, and to ensure that our schools will remain safe and supportive spaces for students and community members, free from intimidation, hostility, or violence, including threat of deportation. These actions include, but are not limited to the following:

Any Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official intending to enter any [name of district] school must first notify the Superintendent or designee, in person, of this intention, with adequate notice for the Superintendent to consult with legal counsel and take steps to provide for the emotional and physical safety of students and staff.

The Superintendent is authorized to ask for any ICE official's credentials, ask why he or she is requesting access to a school, and review the legal authority for the request. Any ICE official must provide written legal authority for entry into a school. Such authority must document the purpose for such entry.

District staff, including School Resource Officers, shall not ask about or document any student's immigration status, or that of the student's family members, and pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and relevant law, shall not disclose, without parental consent, the immigration status or other personal information about any student or his/her family, or use legitimate access to student education records to obtain information about the immigration status of any student or any student's family members, except as required by Consular notification laws.

Directs that this Resolution shall be posted this at every school site and distributed to District staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication, and that the Resolution will be translated into all languages spoken by students at home;

Directs the Superintendent to review District policies and practices regarding bullying and report back to the Board at its next meeting and communicate to staff, students, and parents the importance of maintaining a bullying-free environment for all students;

Affirms that certificated District employees have the academic freedom to discuss this Resolution during class time provided it is age-appropriate; and students are to be made aware that District counselors are available to discuss the subjects contained in this Resolution.