

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ENVISION EDUCATION

AFFIRMING ITS POSITION THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND SCHOOL, FEEL SAFE, AND BE PROTECTED REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND

Resolution No. 2017-01

WHEREAS: All students have a right to attend school free of fear, bullying and discrimination;

WHEREAS: The Board of Envision Education embraces the diversity of our students and families and the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our schools and strongly supports and encourages the participation of all parents and families in our schools;

WHEREAS: The cities and counties where we operate schools, just like many major cities in the United States, are the home and workplace of many diverse communities, including persons of different faiths, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and varying immigration status;

WHEREAS: The 2016 presidential election has created an atmosphere of fear among immigrants, Muslims and other vulnerable groups in the communities we serve;

WHEREAS: Within the last few months, federal, state and local government officials throughout the country have proposed or passed laws and ordinances that propose stemming the tide of undocumented immigrants by cutting off opportunities for jobs, government benefits, housing, and imposing fines on companies employing undocumented immigrants, thereby increasing tensions in immigrant communities;

WHEREAS: Reports of potential raids by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE) have caused immigrant communities to fear sending and/or accompanying their children to schools and leaving their homes, even for needed medical services; and

WHEREAS: ICE activities in and around schools would be a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational setting for students;

WHEREAS: The United States Supreme Court has ruled that public schools were prohibited from denying students access to elementary and secondary public education based on their immigration status, citing that children have little control over their immigration status, the lifelong harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and constitutional equal protection rights;

WHEREAS: On November 8, 2016, California voters passed Proposition 58, which recognizes the value and importance of students graduating from our schools proficient in both English and one or more other languages and a diverse student population greatly helps in accomplishing this goal;

WHEREAS: While there are no accurate numbers of how many undocumented children are enrolled

in our schools, but the communities we serve are home to large numbers of families who speak a language other than English at home and over 50 native languages are spoken by families who live in the communities we serve;

WHEREAS: Reports of hate crimes directed at Muslims and others perceived as Middle Eastern or Muslim have increased in recent months; and

WHEREAS: Bullying or discrimination, for any reason, is harmful to students' feelings of safety and belonging, as well as their academic success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That in response to a growing fear that reports of actual or possible ICE raids are having or will have a chilling effect on the educational rights of immigrant students and families, the Board of Envision Education, in solidarity with immigrant community organizations, hereby affirms its position that all students have the right to attend school regardless of the immigration status of the child or of the child's family members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the all Envision Education students, who register for the following services and meet the federal and state criteria, are entitled to receive all school services, including free lunch, free breakfast, transportation, and educational services, even if they or their family are undocumented and do not have a social security number and that no Envision Education staff shall take any steps that would deny students access to education based on their immigration status or any steps that would "chill" the rights of these students to public education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board recognizes that students have a need to understand history and politics, and supports the academic freedom of teachers to both teach and discuss current events with students as aligned with common core standards and Envision Education policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board declares its commitment that every Envision Education school site be a welcoming place for all students and their families and encourages the CEO to increase and enhance partnerships with community-based organizations and legal services organizations who provide resources for families facing deportation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: In order to provide a public education, regardless of a child's or family's immigration status, absent any applicable federal, state, local law or regulation or local ordinance or court decision, Envision Education schools shall abide by the following:

1. Envision personnel shall not treat students differently for residency determination purposes on the basis of their actual or perceived immigration status and shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of all school services, including but, not limited to, the free and reduced lunch program, transportation and educational instruction.
2. Envision personnel shall review the list of documents that are currently used to establish residency and shall ensure that any required documents would not unlawfully bar or discourage a student who is undocumented or whose parents are undocumented from enrolling in or attending school.
3. Envision personnel shall not inquire about a student's immigration status, including requiring documentation of a student's legal status, such as asking for a green card or citizenship

- papers, at initial registration or at any other time.
4. Envision personnel shall not make unreasonable inquiries from a student or his/her parents for the purpose of exposing the immigration status of the child or his/her family.
 5. Envision personnel shall not require students to apply for Social Security numbers nor should the District require students to supply a Social Security number.
 6. If parent and or students have questions about their immigration status, school personnel shall not refer them to ICE but should instead refer them to community-based and legal organizations that provide resources for immigrant families and families facing deportation.
 7. Because it is the general policy of the Board not to allow any individual or organization to enter a school site if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit, any request by ICE to visit a school site should be forwarded to the CEO's Office for review, in consultation with legal counsel.
 8. All requests for information or documents by ICE should be forwarded to the CEO, who in consultation with legal counsel, shall determine if the information and/or documents must be released to ICE.
 9. Envision staff shall take immediate steps to notify a student's parent or guardian if ICE or other law enforcement agencies take custody of a student from campus or question the student on school premises.
 10. Envision personnel, as designated by the CEO, will review the impact of changes in federal immigration laws programs such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and work to prevent and mitigate the negative impact on both students and employees from the collection or storage of any personally identifiable information for immigration enforcement purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the CEO shall ensure that all teachers, school administrators and school and support office staff will be appropriately and adequately trained on how to implement this Resolution; and parents/guardians will receive notification in various languages of this resolution to fully inform families of their rights in Envision schools;

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of January 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: 11

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0