

## **RESOLUTION**

**By the East Lansing Board of Education affirming its commitment to a safe and supportive school environment for all students, regardless of immigration status**

**February 6, 2017**

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child, regardless of immigration status, to access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Plyler v. Doe* (S.Ct. 1982) held it unconstitutional to deny a free public education to undocumented children; and

WHEREAS, the East Lansing Public School District affirms its mission of nurturing each child, educating all students, and building world citizens; and

WHEREAS, the District works to foster welcoming and safe school environments for all students, including those who may be undocumented or have undocumented family members; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the potential for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to conduct increased enforcement efforts to detain undocumented individuals, and that such efforts may result in ICE officials seeking to enter upon school grounds for purposes of enforcement; and

WHEREAS, an ICE policy issued in 2011 states that the agency will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials unless exigent circumstances exist; and

WHEREAS, ICE activities in and around schools, early childhood centers and other District facilities would risk severe disruption to the learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by adopting the within Resolution, intends to avoid such disruption and interference with the education of District students.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the East Lansing Board of Education as follows:

1. All requests made of the District or its schools by ICE officials to access information or school grounds shall be processed through the Office of the Superintendent, for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, a judicial warrant is required, or any other legal considerations apply. This review should be made expeditiously, but before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer appears at a school site. Schools shall not permit ICE officials to access students at school, or to go past the front office of a school building, without having first contacted and processed their request and all relevant documentation through the Office of the Superintendent.

2. District staff shall continue to treat all students in an equitable manner without regard for race, ethnicity, immigration status, or national origin.
3. The Board of Public Education will do everything in its power to afford equal protection to all members of our community from attempts to criminalize or target them based on race, ethnicity, immigration status, or national origin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in its continued commitment to the protection of student privacy, that the District shall review its record-keeping policies and practices. The district shall consult with legal counsel to determine ways to minimize or eliminate the data collected on students' immigration status. This includes a review of the current practice of having parents or guardians provide birth certificates and social security numbers upon enrollment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District shall post this Resolution at every school site and distribute it to District staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board affirms that 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.

Resolved on this 6th day of February 2017,

THE BOE