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# Memo

**To** Board of Education

**From** Antwan Wilson, Superintendent  
Marion McWilliams, General Counsel

**Board Meeting Date** November 30, 2016

**Subject** Resolution Reaffirming District Facilities, Programs Are A Sanctuary for All Children and Adults

**Action Requested** **Approval of Resolution Reaffirming District Facilities, Programs Are A Sanctuary for All Children and Adults**

**Background** On January 9, 2008, the Governing Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District enacted Resolution No. [0708-0139](#) entitled "Oakland Board of Education Commitment to the Education of all Immigrant Children" and the current Board of Education intends to amend, restate and re-affirm its intent with the enactment of this Resolution No. 1617-0089 ("Resolution");

**Discussion** 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. In response to growing fears that governmental actions towards immigrants will have a chilling effect on the educational rights of immigrant students and families, the proposed resolution restates the Board of Education's 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. It also provides that students will not be discriminated against because of their actual or perceived immigrant status, will not seek information about immigration status, and will take steps to protect personally identifiable information from being used for immigration enforcement to the extent possible. The District will distribute the resolution, develop an implementation plan, and will train staff about its contents.

**Recommendation**

**Approval of Resolution Reaffirming District Facilities, Programs Are A Sanctuary for All Children and Adults**

**Fiscal Impact**

No fiscal impact

**Attachments**

- Resolution 1617-0089

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Reaffirming District Facilities, Programs Are A Sanctuary for All Children and Adults**

**Resolution No. 1617-0089**

**WHEREAS:** Our City and County, just like many major cities in the United States, is the home and workplace of many immigrant communities, including persons with both documented and undocumented immigration status;

**WHEREAS:** All students have a right to attend school regardless of their immigration status. The United States Supreme Court in 1982 ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* 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:** The Board of Education embraces the diversity of our students and families and the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our District and strongly supports and encourages the participation of all parents and families in our schools;

**WHEREAS:** On January 9, 2008, the Governing Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District enacted Resolution No. [0708-0139](#) entitled "Oakland Board of Education Commitment to the Education of all Immigrant Children" and the current Board of Education intends to amend, restate and re-affirm its intent with the enactment of this Resolution No. 1617-0089 ("Resolution");

**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 District's public schools, approximately 50% of our District's students speak a language other than English at home and approximately 50 native languages are spoken by families whose children are enrolled in our District;

**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, early education centers, and adult school facilities would be a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational setting for students.

**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 Education, in solidarity with immigrant community organizations, hereby restates 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 Board of Education states that all District 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 school district staff shall take any steps that would deny students access to education based on their immigration status or any steps that would "chill" the *Plyler* rights of these students to public education;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board declares its commitment that every District site be a welcoming place for all students and their families and encourages the Superintendent 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, the District shall abide by the following conduct:

1. District 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. District 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. District 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. District 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. District 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 District 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 Superintendent's Office for review, in consultation with District legal counsel, before a decision is made to allow access to the site.
8. All requests for information or documents by ICE should be forwarded to the Superintendent, who in consultation with District legal counsel, shall determine if the information and/or documents can be released to ICE.
9. District legal counsel, and other District personnel as designated by the Superintendent, 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.
10. District personnel will take all reasonable measures so that after school providers and other service providers that have access to student, family or employee information will also follow the actions described herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent shall ensure that all teachers, school administrators and school and District 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 the District;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent shall prepare an implementation plan defining partnerships with community organizations and training and support for school site employees and report back to the Board of Education within ninety (90) days of this Resolution's enactment date and from time to time thereafter as requested by the Board of Education; and finally

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board instructs the Superintendent to distribute copies of this Resolution within thirty (30) days of the Resolution's enactment date, translated into all appropriate languages, to all school sites (including District-authorized charter school sites), and ensure that the District's DELAC – District English Learner Advisory Committee, ELACs – English Learners Advisory Committees, the Oakland Mayor's Office, and Oakland immigrant community organizations are consulted and involved in monitoring the successful implementation of this Resolution.

Passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

We, hereby, certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held November 30, 2016.

<b>Legislative File</b>	
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By:	

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James Harris, President

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Antwan Wilson, Secretary