

# LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SERVING LONG BEACH, LAKEWOOD, SIGNAL HILL AND AVALON

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
1515 HUGHES WAY  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90810-1839  
(562) 997-8240 • FAX (562) 997-8280

February 16, 2017

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Just before Thanksgiving break, Superintendent Chris Steinhauser sent you a note regarding concerns students expressed about their immigration status. Students were worried how their status or their parents' status might affect them, their families and their friends at school. This week, our Board of Education adopted a resolution formally reinforcing the superintendent's message of reassurance. Our schools will not participate in potential federal enforcement actions based upon immigration status, religion or nation of origin. We will do everything within the law to protect students regardless of their status.

Our role as public school educators is to welcome and serve all students who arrive at the schoolhouse door, regardless of their situation in life. We embrace diversity as a strength in our schools and in our society, and we do our very best to meet each student's unique needs. Our counselors and other staff will assist any students worried about any aspect of their future.

The recently adopted Board resolution is included with this letter.

As your elected school board, we will continue to welcome and protect all students. We will do everything in our power to prevent unwarranted intrusions or distractions that might interfere with the high-quality teaching and learning that happens every day in our schools.

Sincerely,



Board President



Board Vice President



Board Member



Board Member



Board Member



## RESOLUTION NO. 021517-A

### A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AFFIRMING ITS PROTECTION OF STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS

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

**WHEREAS**, the Long Beach Unified School District welcomes and supports all students; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has a responsibility to ensure that all of its students, regardless of religion, nationality, race or immigration status, can safely access a free public K-12 education; and

**WHEREAS**, federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around District property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention or any other means, harmfully disrupt the learning environment of all students, including U.S. citizen students, students who hold other legal grounds for presence in the U.S., and non-citizen students; and

**WHEREAS**, through its policies and practices, the District has made a commitment to a high quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, parents and students have expressed to the District fear and confusion about the continued physical and emotional safety of students and their families and about their right to access a free public K- 12 education through District schools and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, educational personnel are often the primary sources of resources and information to assist and support students in their learning, and their emotional health;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this Board declares the District to be a Safe Zone for all its students, including both U.S. citizen and non-citizen students, and that the District is a place for students and their parents to learn, to thrive and to seek assistance, information and support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District will continue not to allow any individual or organization to enter a school site if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit; and given the likelihood of substantial disruption posed by the presence of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE) agents or state or local law enforcement agencies acting for ICE, any request by such agencies to visit a school site must be presented to the Superintendent's Office for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, by a judicial warrant, or by any other legal considerations; and this review should be made expeditiously and answered in writing by the Superintendent, before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer acting on their behalf appears at a school site;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in its commitment to the protection of student privacy, the District shall continue to ensure that it is not collecting data with respect to students' immigration status, because such data are irrelevant to the educational enterprise and such collection may be discriminatory;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any request for student information, including student-specific data pertaining to federally funded services such as free and reduced price meals, made by ICE or other immigration law enforcement agents must be referred to the Superintendent's Office to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, and any other limitation on disclosure; and this review should be conducted expeditiously and answered in writing by the Superintendent, before any production of information is made;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, after-school providers and other affected vendors and service providers who contract with the District shall be notified of this Resolution within 30 days and are required to abide by it;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the District shall distribute this resolution to District staff, students and parents using usual means of communication;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board 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.

**ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED** this 15<sup>TH</sup> day of February, 2017.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

By: Jon Meyer  
President

By: Megan M...  
Vice-President

By: John Williams  
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By: Deana C...  
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By: John ...  
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