

# EL MONTE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Resolution No. 11-16/17

### **Board of Trustees Commitment to the Education of All Children and Making all Campuses a Safe Zone for Students and Families Threatened by Immigration Enforcement**

**WHEREAS:** The El Monte Union High School District (EMUHSD) and the communities it serves, is the home and workplace of many immigrant communities, including persons with both documented and undocumented immigration status; and

**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 life-long harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and constitutional equal protection rights; and

**WHEREAS:** The EMUHSD Board of Trustees 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 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; and

**WHEREAS:** While there are no accurate numbers of how many undocumented children are enrolled in our District's public schools, approximately 77.5% of our District's students speak another language at home and more than 21 languages are spoken by families whose children are enrolled in our District; and

**WHEREAS:** In 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; and

**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; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the EMUHSD Board of Education, in solidarity with our immigrant community organizations, in light of the increasing tensions in immigrant communities, and the possible chilling effect on the educational rights of immigrant students and families by reports about ICE raids and proposals like some of the foregoing, the Board of Education 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; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the EMUHSD 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; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Board declares that every District site is a safe 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 and that a rapid response network be created to assist children whose family members have been detained;

**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 must be forwarded to the Superintendent's Office for review 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.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Superintendent shall ensure that all teachers, school administrators and school and District office and other staff will be appropriately and adequately trained on how to implement this policy; and parents will receive notification in various languages of the new District policy to fully inform families of their rights in the District; and

**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 in 90 days; and be it finally

**RESOLVED:** That the Board instructs the Superintendent to distribute copies of this Resolution, translated into all appropriate languages, to all school sites, and ensure that the District's DELAC - District English Learner Advisory Committee, ELACs - English Learners Advisory Committees, all

district stakeholders, and immigrant community organizations are consulted and involved in monitoring the successful implementation of this policy.

**Passed and Adopted**, by the El Monte Union High School District Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on January 11, 2017, by the following votes:


AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSENT: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

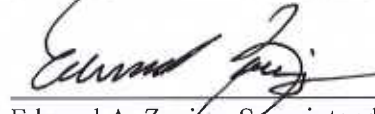
  
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Carlos G. Salcedo, Board President

  
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Maria Morgan, Board Vice President

  
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Maria-Elena Talamantes, Board Clerk

  
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Ricardo Padilla, Board Member

  
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Esthela Torres de Siegrist, Board Member

  
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Edward A. Zuniga, Superintendent