

**WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD RESOLUTION 17 – 003**

**A Safe Haven Resolution by the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees to Reaffirm
the Washoe County School District’s Commitment to Provide all Students a Free and
Appropriate Public Education Pursuant to the Laws of the United States and the State of
Nevada Regardless of Immigration Status**

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court declared that no public school district may deny any child access to a free public education on the basis of that child’s immigration status in *Plyler v. Doe*;

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association’s Beliefs and Policies, Article IV, Section 1.3, states: Public schools should provide equitable access and ensure that all students have the knowledge and skills to succeed as contributing members of a rapidly changing, global society, regardless of factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, English proficiency, immigration status, socioeconomic status, or disability;

WHEREAS, the Washoe County School District is committed to serving a diverse community of students in an inclusive, safe, and secure environment;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees embraces their responsibility to welcome and educate all students regardless of their immigration status, country of origin, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, social economic status or ideological beliefs;

WHEREAS, federal and state laws prohibit educational agencies from disclosing personally identifiable student information to law enforcement without the consent of a parent or guardian, court order or lawful subpoena, or in the case of a health emergency;

WHEREAS, federal law enforcement activities, on or around District property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, have the potential to harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status are entitled;

WHEREAS, a recently signed presidential executive order could cause a disruption to the safety and security of members of our educational community and their families, particularly those students and staff without the privilege of U.S. citizenship, including those with work visas and other lawful forms of residence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees declares the Washoe County School District to be a Safe Haven for all in the educational community threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination. This status shall include:

- Promoting activities that encourage tolerance, inclusiveness, kindness, and acceptance, while taking a stand against bullying, divisiveness, and hate speech;
- Unless specifically required by a valid court order, District employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives will not use District resources for the purpose of detecting or assisting in

the apprehension of persons whose only violation of law is or may be being an undocumented resident in the United States, or failing to produce documents authorizing residency in the United States, or other information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA);

- Providing confidential counseling to all students and staff, including those who fear what might happen to themselves or family members due to immigration status, and will, without inquiring into the particulars of any individual's status, refer them to organizations that will provide them with accurate information about their legal rights and responsibilities;
- Affirming the authority of the Superintendent to protect the information and identities of students, families, or District employees who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive actions that result in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent provided by the law; and
- Affirming the right of every child in Washoe County to have the access to a free and appropriate public education, where we deliver high-quality instruction, support, and resources for all of our students and their families in line with the District's Mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to send copies of this resolution to our representatives in Washington, D.C. and Carson City, including Senator Dean Heller, Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto, Congressman Mark Amodei, Governor Brian Sandoval, and Attorney General Adam Laxalt.

APPROVED, this 7th day of February, 2017.

Angela D. Taylor
President
Washoe County School District
Board of Trustees

Scott G. Kelley
Clerk
Washoe County School District
Board of Trustees