

East Lansing Board of Education

Resolution affirming its commitment to a safe and supportive school environment for all students,
regardless of immigration status

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, each Board member will remember that a Board member's primary concern must be the educational welfare of students attending the District's schools (ELPS Board Policy 2302 A. 1.); and

WHEREAS, the District works to foster welcoming and safe school environments for all students and staff, including those who may be undocumented or have undocumented family members or may have received temporary legal status including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA); and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the 2024 Presidential Election may have caused fear, concern, confusion, sadness, anger, or anxiety in ELPS staff, students, and their families: and

WHEREAS, the incoming administration has signaled an intent to overturn an US. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy issued in 2011 that stated that the agency will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location including schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the potential for 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, ICE activities in and around schools, early childhood centers and other District facilities would risk severe disruption to the learning environment and potentially keep children from seeking a constitutional right to education; 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. District staff shall continue to treat all students in an equitable manner without regard for race, ethnicity, immigration status or national origin.
2. The Board 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.
3. ELPS will not aid the ICE agency in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law. Therefore, ICE will not be permitted access to ELPS facilities, students, or personnel except in the rare instances in which ELPS is provided with a criminal warrant.

4. The Intergovernmental Committee of the Board of Education will include in its legislative agenda advocacy at the state and federal levels for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Temporary Protective Status, and Refugee Settlement Programs, as well as oppose any legislation for the creation of a Muslim registry system or eroding civil rights protections upon our communities.

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 student's 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 the 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.