IMMIGRATION RESOLUTION

District and School Responsibilities

On April 19, 2017, the School Board of Palm Beach County, FL., adopted a resolution “To Promote Welcoming and Inclusive Schools for All Students and Families”.

Talking Points

1. The School District of Palm Beach County is the eleventh largest in the nation and the fifth largest in the State of Florida with 185 schools, serving more than 194,300 students who speak 154 languages and dialects.

2. The School District of Palm Beach County recognizes that it is an inexorably multicultural district and we affirmatively strive to ensure that English Learner students are not unnecessarily alienated, underrepresented or segregated on the basis of their perceived race, nationality, religion or language proficiency. To that end we endeavor to equally represent and celebrate the diverse multicultural character of our student body through this resolution.

3. We as a District recognize the policy from the Director of Homeland Security dated October 24, 2011 entitled “Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations” requires that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) “officers and agents exercise sound judgment when enforcing federal law at or focused on sensitive locations and make substantial efforts to avoid unnecessarily alarming local communities”; and this also states that “the sensitive locations covered by this policy include but are not limited to, schools (including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools up to and including colleges and universities, and other institutions of learning such as vocational or trade schools)".

4. The District’s policies prohibit discrimination against or harassment of our students, families, or employees on the basis of actual or perceived religion, disability, nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected classes.

5. All children in the United States have a constitutional right to equal access to a free public education, regardless of immigration status or that of their parents. Palm Beach will continue to honor that right.
**District Responsibilities**

1. The Superintendent shall direct school based staff to forward any requests from federal law enforcement agents to obtain confidential student information or enter the District property to the Office of General Counsel and School Police.

2. The District shall offer training to district and school staff on the rights of English Language Learners and the importance of supporting the needs of immigrant students and families.

3. The District School Police will continue to recognize the unique needs of immigrant students and their families, particularly those with limited English proficiency. School Police shall continue to exercise discretion and limit the referral of all students to the criminal justice system only as a last resort or when mandated by law.

4. The District will continue to offer all students and their families counseling and supports, as well bullying prevention programs for all students, especially those affected by increased immigration enforcement.

5. High School Counselors shall continue to have information readily available for students regarding opportunities to access college, in-state tuition, out of state fee waivers, financial aid, and career opportunities available to all students regardless of immigration status.

6. The Superintendent shall designate staff to increase and enhance partnerships with community-based organizations to create a Safety Plan to support students in the event they are deprived of adult care or supervision.

**School Responsibilities**

1. Affirm that your school is a safe and welcoming space for your students regardless of immigration status.

2. Ensure that at no point we ask our families or students for their immigration status during enrollment or for educational purposes.

3. Ensure that you have communicated with your school counselor who will serve as the point of contact for your school in case a situation arises that a student’s family has been deported or detained.

4. Be aware of the information and resources provided in order to help our teachers, students and families.

5. Provide opportunities for all school-based staff to attend sessions offered regarding the resolution and its implications for all.