RESOLUTION

PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS, The Palm Beach County School District envisions a dynamic collaborative multicultural community where education and lifelong learning are valued and supported, and all learners reach their highest potential and succeed in the global economy.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court decision in Plyler v. Doe (1982) prohibits public schools from denying undocumented students access to free public education.

WHEREAS, the federal consent decree entered into in LULAC et al v. Florida Board of Education et al. (1990) prohibits Florida public schools from inquiring or collecting data regarding the immigration status of students or their families.

WHEREAS, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), prohibits public schools from sharing educational records with outside agencies without parental consent, a court order, subpoena, or other exception as provided by law.

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County School Board is committed to ensuring its schools provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students regardless of their immigration status, religion, or national origin.

WHEREAS, recent reports of changes in national immigration policy have worried many students and their families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- Palm Beach County’s Public Schools will continue to celebrate the diverse multicultural character of its student body by continuing to welcome and support all students regardless of immigration status, religion or national origin.

- In order to protect the safety and welfare of all students, promote a safe and stable learning environment, and ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws, the Superintendent shall direct school based staff to forward any requests from federal law enforcement agents to obtain confidential student information or enter District property to the Office of General Counsel and School Police.

- The District shall offer training to district staff on the rights of English language learners and the importance of supporting the needs of immigrant students and their families.

- 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.
• The District will continue to offer all students and their families counseling and supports and bullying prevention programs for all students, including those affected by increased immigration enforcement. High school guidance 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.

• The Superintendent shall designate staff to increase and enhance partnerships with community based organizations to create a Safety Plan to support students attending District schools in the event they are deprived of adult care or supervision as a result of a federal law enforcement action or deportation. This plan may include: encouraging School Advisory Councils (SACs) to work with community based organizations to provide informational sessions for students and parents; establishing a communications plan between schools, community based organizations and district staff in the event an immigration enforcement action affects a substantial number of students from a particular community.

• This Resolution shall be shared with District staff, students, and parents or guardians, in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Q’anjobal and Mam via telephone calls, email, Facebook, or by posting on the District’s website.