

VALLEJO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2736

Resolution No. 2736 expresses the Governing Board's commitment to the education of all immigrant children and designating the Vallejo City Unified School District's campuses as "Safe Haven Zones" for students and families threatened by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court held in *Plyer v. Doe* (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and the equal protection rights under the Fourteenth Amendment;

WHEREAS, The California Constitution, Article 1, Section 28(f)(1) provides, "All students and staff of public primary, elementary, junior high, and senior high schools, and community colleges, colleges, and universities have the inalienable right to attend campuses which are safe, secure and peaceful";

WHEREAS, The California Education Code, Section 200 provides, "It is the policy of the State of California to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state," and per California Education Code Section 212, "nationality" includes citizenship, country of origin, and national origin;

WHEREAS, the California Education Code, Section 201 provides, "(a) All pupils have the right to participate fully in the educational process, free from discrimination and harassment; (b) California's public schools have an affirmative obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity,"

WHEREAS, The Vallejo City Unified School District ("District") welcomes and values all of its residents and supports their interests in living and working free from discrimination, hostility, abuse, violence, exploitation and fear of local, state and federal law enforcement;

WHEREAS, The District's Board of Education ("Board") previously passed resolutions such as: 1. "Condemning violence and hate speech, expressing support for Muslim students and those perceived as Muslims" ; 2. "October as National Bullying Prevention Month"; 3. "Recognizing the contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and month of June as Pride Month,"

WHEREAS, Ensuring that our schools are safe and inviting for all students and their families will facilitate the physical safety and emotional well-being of all children in the District, and is paramount to students' ability to achieve;

WHEREAS, the California voters during the 2016 General Election expressed strong support for public schools by embracing bilingual education through Proposition 58, strengthening funding sources through Proposition 55, and modernizing school facilities through Proposition 51, and;

WHEREAS, More than fifty different languages are spoken in Vallejo City Unified School District schools including, Spanish, Vietnamese, Khmer, Mandarin, Tagalog, Tigrinya, Punjabi, and Lao;

WHEREAS, 5,363 of 13,553 students in Vallejo City Unified School District are in Latino/a descent, 12,577 are students of color, and more than 79 percent of elementary and 63 percent of high school students qualify for free and reduced lunch;

WHEREAS, Immigration arrests, detentions, and deportations affect families every day, and indications that deportations will increase dramatically has created a climate of heightened fear and anxiety for many students and their families;

WHEREAS, ICE's longstanding policy states that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activities at any sensitive location, which includes schools, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials, unless exigent circumstances exist;

WHEREAS, Immigration enforcement activities in and around schools, early education centers, and adult school facilities would severely disrupt the learning environment and educational setting for students; and

WHEREAS, Immigration enforcement activities around schools create hardships and barriers to health and educational attainment, and a pervasive climate of fear, conflict and stress that affects all students in our District, regardless of their background or status.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board hereby declares that every District site is a safe place for its students and their families as well as staff to seek help, assistance, and information if faced with fear and anxiety about immigration enforcement efforts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District will continue to support a community policing model to strengthen trust between police and communities of color so all residents feel safe in their neighborhoods;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That California is the sixth largest economy in the world. The Bay Area is the innovation capital of the country. We will join with other Bay Area communities and make it clear that we will not be bullied by threats to revoke our federal funding, nor will we sacrifice our values or members of our community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we condemn all hate crimes and hate speech, will fight discrimination and recklessness in all its forms, and will move forward together;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board directs the Superintendent and/or designees to not cooperate with Federal Immigration authorities, except as required by law, and to notify parents

of any immigration inquiry about their children that is submitted to the District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board reaffirm the authority of the Superintendent to protect the data and identities of any student, family members, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent possible provided by the law, and be it finally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Should an immigration agent request access to a school site, the Board authorizes the Superintendent and/or designees to ask for the ICE agent's credentials, ask the agent why he or she is requesting access to the school site, and ask to see a warrant signed by a federal or state Judge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, District employees shall under no circumstances respond verbally or in writing to any request about the immigration status of any student or any student's family, and shall refer any and all such requests about immigration status to the proper designee at the district office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Vallejo City Unified School District Board of Education directs the Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven school district. This status shall include:

- Designating VCUSD school sites, facilities, and equipment as safe havens for students, families and the community;
- Allocating adequate resources necessary to continue to support diversity, inclusion, and the values of multicultural society;
- Continuing to host trainings on cultural proficiency, equity and unconscious bias in the District; and to include a plan to educate all staff members on laws related to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement office, including how to interact with ICE personnel, how to communicate with students and families about attempts by ICE agents to gain information about students and families, and VCUSD structures to support students whose family members have been displaced by ICE. This plan shall be communicated to all families in all supported languages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent and/or designee to send copies of this resolution to our Federal representatives including Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator-elect Kamala Harris and Congressman Mike Thompson.

The foregoing resolution was acted upon at a meeting of the governing board by the following votes:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

DATE:

ATTEST:

Ruscal Cayangyang
President, Vallejo City Unified School District

Dr Ramona Bishop
Superintendent, Vallejo City Unified School District