

Resolution in Support of Immigrant, Refugee, and Undocumented Students and Families in the South Kingstown School District

WHEREAS, the South Kingstown School District is committed to creating a safe, supportive, and welcoming learning environment for all students, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) held that no public school district may deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing both the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself and the commands of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment; and

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; 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 affect all students in our District, regardless of their background or status; and

WHEREAS, the South Kingstown School District additionally condemns the inhumane actions and conditions being facilitated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) through the detaining of separated migrant children in child detention facilities, and recognizes that reports of these actions and conditions have stoked fears and anxieties for students and their families; and

WHEREAS, school districts have no obligation, in the absence of a valid judicial order, to assist ICE in the enforcement of immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of ICE that, absent a lawful exception, enforcement actions should not occur at schools, which are considered sensitive locations; and

WHEREAS, the South Kingstown School Committee has enacted a Campus Safety Policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the School Committee of the South Kingstown School District hereby declares that every South Kingstown School District site is a safe place for its students and their families to seek help, assistance, and information if faced with fear and anxiety about immigration enforcement efforts.

RESOLVED FURTHER: In furtherance of this declaration and absent any applicable federal or state law, regulation, ordinance or court decision to the contrary, the South Kingstown School District shall abide by the following conduct:

1. South Kingstown School District personnel shall not inquire about or record a student's or a family member's social security number or immigration status.

2. Any communication to federal agencies or officials initiated by school personnel, concerning confidential information about a student or a student family member's actual or perceived immigration or citizenship status, shall be directed to the Superintendent.
3. The South Kingstown School District shall refuse all voluntary information sharing with immigration agents to the fullest extent possible under the law.
4. The South Kingstown School District and its staff, faculty, employees, and school resource officers or campus police will not honor any ICE detainers or requests in the absence of judicial authorization.
5. Any request by immigration agents for information about a student or to access a school site shall be initially denied and immediately forwarded to the Superintendent who, in consultation with legal counsel, shall review and decide whether to reverse the denial and allow access to the site or provide the information because compliance is legally required.

RESOLVED FURTHER: The School Committee of the South Kingstown School District respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Education to support the adoption of legislation to codify these standards into state law in order to ensure a safe learning environment for all students in Rhode Island.