

VACAVILLE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

Safe and Welcoming Schools for ALL Students

Whereas, the Vacaville Teachers Association (VTA) is committed to ensuring that school remains a safe and welcoming place for all students and families, regardless of their immigration status, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or gender expression; and

Whereas, VTA ascribes to the following beliefs affirmed in the District's LCAP Plan:

Goal #3: Ensure all school sites have safe welcoming healthy and inclusive climates for all students and their families, so that all students are in their classes ready to learn; and

Whereas, VTA recognizes the critical role of public education in developing citizens who are knowledgeable, critical thinkers and empathetic and compassionate to fellow members of a diverse community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court has held, in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), that local school districts have a constitutional mandate to educate all students residing within their jurisdictional boundaries, regardless of immigration status; and

Whereas, the California Department of Education has declared California Public Schools as welcoming, safe places for learning and teaching for all students, regardless of immigration status, reaffirming guidelines that prohibit educational agencies from disclosing personally identifiable student information to law enforcement, without consent of a parent or guardian, a court order or lawful subpoena, or in the case of a health emergency; and recommending educational agencies do not collect or maintain documents related to immigration status; and

Whereas, on November 8, 2016, California voters passed Proposition 58, which recognizes the value and importance of students graduating from our schools proficient in both English and one or more other languages, and recognizing that a diverse student population greatly helps in accomplishing this goal; and

Whereas, Title IX is a Federal law that guarantees no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on the basis of sex; and

Whereas, Congress enacted the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), originally in 1975 to bring meaningful educational opportunities for children with disabilities; and

Whereas, students and parents have expressed fear, anxiety and confusion regarding the ability of the Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter District property for the purpose of determining legal status of students and their families; and

Whereas, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 2011 policy states that immigration enforcement activity will not be conducted at any sensitive place, which includes schools, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials; unless exigent circumstances exist; and

Whereas, all students and educators deserve safe learning and teaching environments, and the right to attend school free of fear, bullying and discrimination; and

Whereas, school attendance is crucial to academic and social success, and that sensitive locations, such as schools, should be safe havens for students and families; and

Whereas, the Vacaville School Board's philosophy states:

The Board believes that:

- Every person is equally important
- Students learn best in a safe, healthy and respectful environment
- The family is the critical component in an individual's development
- Every person is responsible for making the community a better place; and

Whereas, the Vacaville School Board states in board policy that it will provide an educational environment that allows the opportunity for every student to attain maximum growth regardless of ability, socio-economic background, actual or perceived gender or sexual orientation, age, sex, ancestry and/or national origin, ethnic group, medical condition or pregnancy; and

Whereas, the Vacaville School Board assures in board policy that the educational program is designed to cultivate individual intellectual and physical capabilities and one's cultural, moral and social awareness; and

Whereas, a goal of the Vacaville School Board is to develop each student's self-respect, respect for others, appreciation for diversity, and sense of personal responsibility

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education); and

Whereas, California has always strived for and deserves a quality, inclusive, safe and innovative public education system that ensures all students can succeed, regardless of their ZIP code, the color of their skin, their native language, their gender or gender identity, their immigration status, their religion, who they love, or their social standing; and

Whereas, California has always been a place for DREAMers and supports safe-haven schools and sanctuary cities that reflect and embrace the diversity of our students and their families, as well as the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our communities; and

Whereas, parent, family and community engagement are an integral part of a child's education and are critical to developing a shared vision for student learning.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that educators affirm their commitment to these values and rise up to protect students and their families from any policies that would undermine these values;

Resolved further, VTA declares its commitment that every school site be a safe and welcoming place for ALL students and their families, and encourages the Superintendent to enhance partnerships with community-based organizations who provide resources for families facing immigration issues;

Resolved further, VTA restates its position that every student has the right to attend school regardless of the child's immigration status, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or

parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or gender expression;

Resolved further, VTA strongly urges the District to maintain the confidentiality of all personally identifiable information in education records related to students, including but not limited to; information regarding immigration status or related matters contained in student records to federal agencies or other authorities enforcing immigration laws, without the permission of the student's parent or guardian or pursuant to a judicial warrant, subpoena, court order or as otherwise required by law;

Resolved further, VTA affirms its focus on promoting and elevating tolerance, inclusiveness and kindness of ALL students, families and staff at all district school sites and facilities;

Resolved further, members in VTA, such as Counselors, Psychologists and Community Liaisons, will be available to provide support to students and families;

Resolved further, VTA maintains that the District shall not take any steps that would deny students access to education based on their immigration status, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or gender expression;

Resolved further, VTA shall immediately notify the Superintendent's Office or designee if ICE comes to a school site unannounced to interrogate or take custody of a student;

Resolved further, VTA will distribute copies of this Resolution to all members, District English Learner Advisory Committee, English Learner Advisory Committees at each school site, and any other appropriate **site personnel**, clubs/committees;

Resolved, that VTA reaffirms our commitment to providing a school climate of peace, respect and openness to diverse perspectives where ALL students, members and families belong.