



Resolution on Safe & Welcoming Schools for All Students Regardless of National Origin, Immigration Status, or Documentation Status

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Board of Education’s mission is to provide leadership and vision for Oregon’s schools and districts by enacting policies and promoting educational practices that lead directly to the educational and life success of all Oregon PK -12 students; and

WHEREAS, this commitment includes that student success will not be predicted nor predetermined by an individual’s national origin, immigration status, or native language; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to equity and access to education as a core value, manifested by a steadfast commitment to creating a welcoming environment for all students and families and direction of the supports and resources needed to eliminate barriers and promote student success; and

WHEREAS, the United State Supreme Court held that children, regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents or guardians, have a constitutional right to receive a free public K-12 education (Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)); and

WHEREAS, Oregon state law requires school districts to provide a free appropriate public education to all children between the ages of 5 and 19 who reside within the district (ORS 339.115); and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education strongly supports [Executive Order Number 17-04](#), which renews the Governor’s commitment to protect Oregon’s immigrant, refugee, and religious-minority residents; and

WHEREAS, Oregon law enforcement agencies are prohibited from expending agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws, subject to the exceptions of that law (ORS 181A. 820); and

WHEREAS, public schools and school districts in Oregon are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination; and



WHEREAS, the Oregon State Board of Education promotes nondiscrimination and an environment free of harassment based on an individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, marital status, age or disability; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that national events and the current political climate have caused uncertainty and anxiety for many in our communities, and that we share in the responsibility to respond to these circumstances on behalf of all Oregon school districts, educational professionals, students and families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon State Board of Education:

- (1) Urgently requests that all Oregon school districts and education service districts review and, where necessary, strengthen relevant policies, procedures, and practices, including those related to student enrollment practices, release of student records, and access to schools by law enforcement and other visitors, to ensure that to the extent permitted by law, school districts are acting in a manner that is consistent with this Resolution and its intent; and
- (2) Urgently requests that Oregon school districts and education service districts provide district employees, including both administration and school-level staff, with the necessary training to understand and follow the principles and practices supported and reaffirmed by this Resolution and related local resolutions; and
- (3) Urgently requests that Oregon school districts and education service districts communicate to students, families, employees, and their communities their policies and practices and their commitment to providing all students with a high quality public education regardless of national origin, immigration status, or documentation status; and
- (4) Urgently requests that Oregon school districts and education service districts consult with local and state community partners to develop, implement, and/or strengthen comprehensive networks of support for students and families who are experiencing increased vulnerability due to the current national context regarding immigration policy; and
- (5) Fully supports all efforts by Oregon school districts and education service districts to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, regardless of



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national origin, immigration status, or documentation status, by adopting local resolutions consistent with this resolution; and

- (6) Fully supports all efforts by the Oregon Department of Education, Oregon school districts, education service districts, and educational leaders to create and nurture an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, families, and employees.