

## CHARTER SCHOOL/LEA RESOLUTION FOR SANCTUARY SCHOOL STATUS

**Proposed resolution for adoption by DC public charter schools and local education agencies (LEAs)**

*Adapted from the National Education Association, reviewed by the Washington Lawyers' Committee*

**WHEREAS**, Washington, D.C. has taken on the obligation of providing to every child, regardless of immigration status, a free public K-12 education and  (LEA)  welcomes and supports all students;

**WHEREAS**,  (LEA)  has a responsibility to ensure that all students who attend the school, regardless of immigration status, can safely access a free public K-12 education;

**WHEREAS**, federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around  (LEA)  property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled and significantly interfere with the ability of all students, including U.S. citizen students and students who hold other legal grounds for presence in the U.S., to access a free public K-12 education;

**WHEREAS**, through its policies and practices,  (LEA)  has made a commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance;

**WHEREAS**, parents and students have expressed to  (LEA)  fear and confusion about the continued physical and emotional safety of all students and the right to access a free public K-12 education through  (LEA)  schools and programs;

**WHEREAS**, there are already cases of students in the District of Columbia not attending school because of the fear of immigration agents and officers coming to schools;

**AND WHEREAS**, educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the U.S. Immigrations Enforcement Office (ICE), state or local law enforcement agencies acting on behalf of ICE, or agents or officers for any federal, state, or local agency attempting to enforce federal immigration laws, are to follow the  (LEA)  School Policy, attached to and incorporated in this Resolution, to ensure  (LEA)  meets its duty to provide all students, regardless of immigration status, access to a free public K-12 education;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board declares  (LEA)  to be a Sanctuary School for its students, meaning that  (LEA)  is a place for students to learn, to thrive and to seek assistance, information, and support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that  (LEA)  shall, within 20 days of the date of this Resolution, create a Rapid Response Team to prepare in the event a minor child attending school at  (LEA)  is deprived of adult care, supervision, or guardianship outside of school due to a federal law enforcement action, such as detention by ICE or a cooperating law enforcement agency;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, it continues to be the policy of  (LEA)  not to allow any individual or organization to enter  (LEA)  property if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit; given the likelihood of substantial disruption posed by the presence of ICE or state or local law enforcement agencies acting for ICE, any request by ICE or other agencies to visit a school site should be presented to the Head of School/SLT/Board for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, whether a proper judicial warrant has been obtained, or any other legal considerations apply; this review should be made expeditiously, but before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer appears at the school site;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in its continued commitment to the protection of student privacy,  (LEA)  shall review its record-keeping policies and practices to ensure that no data is being collected with respect to students' immigration status or place of birth; and cease any such collection and destroy any such data collected as it is irrelevant to the educational enterprise and potentially discriminatory;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, should ICE or other immigration law enforcement agents request any student information, the request should be referred to the Head of School/SLT/Board to ensure compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, and any other limitation on disclosure; this review should be conducted expeditiously, but before any production of information is made;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**,  (LEA)  shall post this Resolution at every school site and distribute it to  (LEA)  staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication, and that the Resolution will be translated into all languages spoken by students at home;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Head of School shall report back on compliance with this Resolution to the Board at its next meeting;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board directs the Head of School to review  (LEA)  policies and practices regarding bullying regarding immigration status and national origin and report back to the Board at their next meeting and communicate to staff, students, and parents the importance of maintaining a bullying-free environment for all students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the importance of maintaining a bullying-free environment not just between students but also between teachers, staff, security guards, food service workers, visitors, etc. and students, and vice versa;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board affirms that certificated  (LEA)  employees have the academic freedom to discuss this Resolution during class time provided it is age-appropriate; and students are to be made aware that  (LEA)  counselors are available to discuss the subjects contained in this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, after-school providers and other vendors and service providers who contract with  (LEA)  shall be notified of this Resolution within 30 days and required to abide by it.

[FOLLOWED BY SIGNATURE PAGE]

## **(CHARTER SCHOOL/LEA) SANCTUARY SCHOOL POLICY**

### **ACCESS TO EDUCATION, STUDENT PRIVACY, AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

School personnel must not allow any third party access to a school site without permission of the site administrator. The site administrator shall not permit third party access to the school site that would cause disruption to the learning environment.

Access to a school site by immigration law enforcement agents substantially disrupts the learning environment and any such request for access should be referred to the Head of School/SLT/Board immediately.

School personnel must contact the Head of School/SLT/Board immediately if approached by immigration law enforcement agents. Personnel must also attempt to contact the parents or guardians of any students involved.

The Head of School/SLT/Board must process requests by immigration law enforcement agents to **enter a school site** or **obtain student data** as follows:

1. Request identification from the officers or agents and photocopy it;
2. Request a judicial warrant, photocopy, scan, and send it to legal counsel;
  - a. If no warrant is presented, request the grounds for access, make notes, and contact the Head of School/SLT/Board for  (LEA) ;
  - b. If a proper warrant is presented, immediately copy, scan, and send it to the Head of School/SLT/Board for verification before the warrant is executed;
3. Request and retain notes of the names of the students and the reasons for the request;
  - a. If school site personnel have not yet contacted the students' parents or guardians, do so;
  - b. Do not attempt to provide your own information or conjecture about the students, such as their schedule, for example, without legal counsel present;
4. Provide the agents with a copy of this Policy and Resolution;
5. Contact legal counsel for  (LEA) ;
6. Request the agents' contact information; and
7. Advise the agents you are required to complete these steps prior to allowing them access to any school site or student data.

*Note: Please include contact numbers for school staff to have readily available.*