Commitment to the Education of All Immigrant Children

Originally ratified: 6/18/2008
Updated and ratified: 12/14/2016
Updated and ratified: 2/5/2025

Lighthouse Community Public Schools is committed to serving all students, regardless of their first language, ethnicity, income, race, sexual orientation, ability, and immigrant status. In February of 2025, the Lighthouse Community Public Schools Board of Directors updated and ratified a policy stating its commitment to immigrant children. The policy is stated below:

Commitment to the Education of All Immigrant Children

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland, like many other major cities in the United States, is the home and workplace of large immigrant communities with both "legal" and "undocumented people;" and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* that public schools were prohibited from denying immigrant students access to elementary and secondary public education; that undocumented children have the same right to a free public education as citizens of the United States and permanent residents; and

WHEREAS, there are no numbers of how many undocumented children are enrolled in Lighthouse Community Public Schools, however, approximately 47% of the students are English Language Learners;

WHEREAS, recent executive orders and federal law enforcement action have raised concerns amongst immigrant communities about their ability to access school safely without interaction with federal immigration law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2007 and again in November 2016, the Oakland City Council passed a resolution affirming Oakland's City of Refugee ordinance forbidding city resources from being used to enforce federal immigration laws or to gather or disseminate information

regarding the immigrant status of residents of the City unless such assistance is required by federal or state statute, or regulation or court decision,

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025 the California Department of Education issued a reminder to all Charter and District schools that they have an obligation to Protect Immigrant Families' Rights to Access Public Education and that All children in the United States, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, have a right to a free and appropriate public education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Lighthouse Community Public Schools, in solidarity with immigrant community organizations and consistent with the Oakland City Council's designation of Oakland as a City of Refuge, in light of the increasing tensions in immigrant communities, and the possible effect on the educational rights of immigrant students by the enactment of the aforementioned laws and ordinances, restates its position that all students have the right to attend school regardless of the immigration status of the student or the student's family members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors further states that all students who register for school services and meet the federal and state criteria, are entitled to receive all school services, including free lunch, free breakfast, and educational services, even if they or their family are undocumented and do not have a social security number and that no school district staff shall take any steps that will deny students access to education based on their immigration status or any steps that will supress the *Plyler* rights of these students to public education; .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to provide a public education, regardless of a child's immigration status, absent any applicable federal, state, local law or regulation or local ordinance or court decision, the school shall abide by the following conduct:

1. School personnel shall not require students or their families to supply documentation of immigration status or a Social Security number, at initial registration or at any other time;

2. School personnel shall not make inquiries of students or their families for the purpose of exposing immigration status of the student or his/her family;

3. If parents and/or students have questions about their immigration status, school personnel shall not refer them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE");

4. It is the general policy of the school not to allow any individual or organization to enter the school site if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit. The Board of Directors has found that the presence of Immigration Officials including ICE is likely to lead to a disruption of the educational setting. Therefore, any request by ICE to visit the school site must be made should be forwarded to the school Directors for review before permitting ICE to access the site;

5. If ICE officers attempt to come onto campus without advance notice, school personnel should request the person's identification and ask whether the officer has a judicial warrant; copies of identification and any provisioned warrants should be forwarded to the school Directors and CEO or his or her designee, who in consultation with legal counsel shall determine whether access can be granted; and

6. All requests for documents by ICE should be forwarded to the CEO or his or her designee, who in consultation with legal counsel, shall determine whether the documents can be released to ICE.