

DECLARING ST. LOUIS PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS A WELCOMING, SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT, COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS, EDUCATION PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Plyler v. Doe (1982) that, under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, no public school district can deny children access to free public education based on their immigration status or the immigration status of their parents; and

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child in Minnesota to access a free public K-12 education free from discrimination, and St. Louis Park Public Schools affirms its position as a district that welcomes and supports all students, regardless of immigration status, race, color, religion, gender, or country of origin; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis Park Public Schools is a district with a large immigrant and foreign-born population, including mixed-status families; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's January 20, 2025 memo rescinding the Protected Areas enforcement policy and thus allowing immigration enforcement actions in schools, college campuses, playgrounds, hospitals, places of worship and other social services facilities is causing concern among educators, students and families served by the school district; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration law enforcement activities and raids around district property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention or any other means, harmfully disrupt the learning environment and undermine access to a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, through its policies and practices, St. Louis Park Public Schools has made a commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, screenings of who may enter the school and the requirement of school attendance; and

WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary sources of resources and information to assist students and support their emotional and physical health; which puts additional strain on their own personal health;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis Park Public Schools declares the district to be a safe haven for its students and staff – regardless of immigration status – meaning that the district is a place free from discrimination, harassment, bullying; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the district prohibits immigration enforcement agents or other federal or state or local law enforcement agencies acting on behalf of ICE from being on school grounds

without a judicial warrant and approval of the superintendent's office; given the likelihood of substantial disruption posed by the presence of ICE or other federal or state or local law enforcement agencies acting on behalf of ICE, any request by ICE or other agencies to visit a school site should be presented to the superintendent's office for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that, should ICE or other law enforcement agents request any student information, the request should be referred to the superintendent's office to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, state and local privacy or confidentiality laws, and any other limitation on disclosure; this review should be conducted expeditiously, but before any production of information is made; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that, the District shall continue to protect student education records in accordance with federal and state laws and does not disclose a student's or family's information unless required by law. Any request will be reviewed and handled by the District Counsel; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Louis Park Public Schools shall post this resolution at every school site and distribute it through the usual means of communication, including on the district website, and that the resolution will be translated into all languages spoken by students at home; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Louis Park Public Schools shall provide teachers, administrators, school counselors and other school personnel with resources on how to support the educational success and mental health of immigrant students, including undocumented students, refugee students, DACAmented students and students with temporary protected status (TPS), and on their rights and responsibilities in the event of ICE presence on or near schools; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors affirms that certified district employees have the academic freedom to discuss this resolution during class time provided it is age-appropriate, and that students are to be made aware that district counselors are available to discuss the subjects contained in this resolution; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors commits to reviewing and revising board meeting topics over the duration of the school year, to ensure the safety of our school community; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors commits to holding these resolutions at the center when reviewing and approving the district budget to ensure adequate funding to support this work; and

BE IT RESOLVED that after-school providers and other vendors and service providers that contract with the district shall be notified of this resolution within 30 days and required to abide by it.