

RECOGNITION OF A SAFE HAVEN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Whereas, The Sonoma County Board of Education is committed to the success of all students irrespective of their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs.

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America recognizes every individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas, The United States of America was built by diverse peoples, both native and immigrant alike;

Whereas, Education has played a critical role in furthering tolerance and strengthening our society;

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court held in *Plyer v. Doe* (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing the children have little control over their immigration status, the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and equal protection rights of the 14th Amendment;

Whereas, On November 8, 2016, voters in California and across the nation participated in the democratic process by casting votes;

Whereas, California voters during the 2016 General election expressed strong support for public schools by embracing bilingual education through Proposition 58, strengthening funding sources through Proposition 55, and modernizing school facilities through Proposition 51, and;

Whereas, 26.7% of students attending the Sonoma County Office of Education's Alternative Education programs are English Learners;

Whereas, 100 of 161 students in Sonoma County Office of Education's Alternative Education programs are of Latino/a descent, and more than 64.4% percent of students attending County Office community schools and 100% of students attending County Office court schools qualify for free and reduced lunch;

Whereas, The 2016 national presidential election has resulted in thousands of students and families in Sonoma County expressing fear, sadness and concerns for student safety as the result of particular rhetoric and promises made over the course of the 2016 presidential race;

Whereas, Youth and families across the county have already experienced and reported increased levels of hate speech based on their ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation since the election; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Sonoma County Board of Education advises the County Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven county office of education. This status shall include:

- Designating Sonoma County Office of Education school sites, facilities, and equipment as safe havens for students, families and the community;
- Allocating adequate resources necessary to support diversity, inclusion, and the values of a multicultural society;
- Continuing to host trainings on cultural proficiency, equity and unconscious bias in the county;

Resolved further, That the Sonoma County Board of Education will work closely with the City, County and other state and local municipalities and community organizations to ensure our students and families are offered a protected space;

Resolved further, That the County Board reaffirms its focus on promoting and elevating tolerance, inclusiveness and kindness of all students, families and staff at all County Office school sites, facilities and material property;

Resolved further, That the County Board reaffirm the authority of the County Superintendent to protect the data and identities of any student, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent provided by the law; and, be it finally

Resolved further, That the County Board shall not allow ICE agents on school sites, facilities or material property without receiving prior written approval from the County Superintendent;

Resolved further, That the County Board reaffirms Sonoma County Office of Education's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a safe educational environment for all students, serving as a safe haven county office of education for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent provided by the law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sonoma County Board of Education on February 2, 2017.

Board President

Board Secretary