



Los Angeles County Office of Education

Serving Students ■ Supporting Communities ■ Leading Educators

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

December 27, 2016

**Los Angeles County
Board of Education**

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From: Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

Subject: Response to Motion on Protecting Immigrant Residents

In response to the Board of Supervisors' December 6, 2016 motion, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is pleased to respond with an analysis of the potential impact of changes in immigration laws and policies on students, families, and school employees, offering recommendations to address such impacts.

It cannot be overemphasized that the primary mission of public schools is to educate *all* children regardless of immigration or citizenship status. *All* children, including those who are undocumented, have the constitutional right to a free public K-12 education, which is recognized as vital to preserving our democracy. Existing laws and policies protect and uphold this right, and they must be preserved and protected.

We surveyed the county's 80 district superintendents and our own LACOE school administrators and leadership to determine current and potential impacts. We found common themes and have provided these in the attached document along with our recommendations.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if additional information is necessary at (562) 922-6127. Your staff may also contact Dr. Joseph Ybarra, Executive Deputy Superintendent, at (562) 922-6130.

DD/DM:em

Attachment

Response to Board of Supervisors Motion:

Responding to potential impact of changes in immigration laws/policies on students, family members, or school employees and recommendations for addressing such impacts

Groups	Districts	Current/Potential Impacts	Current Policies, Programs & Resources	Recommendations
<p>Students and Families</p>		<p>Survey: 80 district superintendents (33% response rate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear/anxiety/poor concentration • Walkouts/protests • Declining enrollment/attendance (program and fiscal impact) • Increased bullying • Trust breakdown: parents and school • Transcript requests to prove residency • Districts promoting schools as sanctuaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public schools serve all students regardless of their or parents' immigration/citizenship status • Public schools do not require or collect information on immigration/citizenship status of students/families; not part of school record • Undocumented immigrant children have constitutional right to free public K-12 education • Student information in the form of school records protected by federal and state law; names and addresses can be shielded provided student or parent has requested • Federal policy limits immigration arrests, interviews, searches and surveillance at schools; senior officials must get prior approval • Civic learning/professional development initiatives: California Democracy School, LA County Civic Learning Partnership, California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning • Ongoing meetings with county and district superintendents • Anti-bullying efforts (detailed in report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect existing laws & policies that ensure public schools are safe havens for <i>all</i> children and preserve confidentiality of records • Work to uphold constitutional right of <i>all</i> children to receive a public education • Dedicate time, funding and resources to provide professional development for all teachers; reference allocation in Local Control Accountability Plan • Workshops for districts on obligations and support for newcomer immigrant students • Develop coalition of parent groups (PTA and others), advocacy/civil rights groups and districts to inform and support families at school level • Enhance leadership role of LACOE as information resource and provider of training and technical assistance, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online toolkit for districts: legislative/policy updates, parent materials in multiple languages, etc. ○ Anti-bullying efforts (report)

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Groups		Current/Potential Impacts	Current Policies, Programs & Resources	Recommendations
	<p>LACOE-run schools & programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in enrollment, attendance and graduation rates with program and fiscal impact • Increase in homeless and foster youth • Decrease in trust in institution • Deportation of parents/caregivers • Increased anxiety • Decrease in community services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aftercare process/transition process • Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support system to promote positive school climate • Bilingual/English Learner Directors Network • English Learner family engagement workshops and web resources • Face-to-face interaction with migrant education students and families (26 school districts) through Parent Advisory Councils, student instruction and teacher trainings • Connection to advocacy groups and state and federal Migrant Education agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic lessons for empowerment • Workshops in collaboration with advocacy groups to empower parents and community
<p>School Employees</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in trauma-related behaviors • Decrease in student engagement • Increase in counseling responsibilities • Increase in required knowledge of resources and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LACOE Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) outreach to members during walkouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for staff: civic engagement, counseling, legislative update, available services for students/families • Interagency collaboration • LACOE Employee Assistance Service for Education to offer psycho-social support and web resources