

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL IMMIGRATION & OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED
STAKEHOLDERS**

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) held that it was unconstitutional to deny a free public education to children who are not legally admitted into the United States. As a result of this long-standing Supreme Court precedent, undocumented students have had unrestrained access to a free public education. Additionally, state and federal law, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") prohibit school districts from releasing or sharing personally identifiable information, including citizenship status, with respect to students enrolled in their schools with outside entities unless compelled by law. However, due to recent changes to U.S immigration policy, many students and their families enrolled at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well as families and students attending schools across the country have experienced a heightened level of anxiety due to this announced change in U.S. immigration policy.

In order to safeguard undocumented children's right to a free public education, several school districts around the country have implemented policies and/or passed resolutions pertaining to federal immigration and other law enforcement authorities on schools grounds, in order to alleviate the fear and uncertainty among the impacted many communities. The presence of federal immigration authorities and other law enforcement on school grounds, has the potential to harmfully disrupt and interfere with the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status are entitled. Threats of legal action and particularly of separation and deportation, against students and their families create severe emotional, psychological, and physical barriers to learning and education.

Through its policies and practices, the District has made a commitment to providing educational opportunities for all students, regardless of their immigration status. It is in the best interest of the students, staff, families, and communities we serve that the District take action to assure all students and families that our schools are a safe haven for all students.

This item seeks Board approval to request that the Superintendent, with the assistance of the School Board Attorney review current District practices, Board policies, local,

state and federal law pertaining to Federal Immigration and other law enforcement authorities on school grounds to ascertain what actions or policies the District may additionally implement to safeguard undocumented immigrant students' right to a free public education. Additionally, upon the District's review of its policies and procedures, the District shall distribute guidelines to all parents, students, employees and stakeholders, by all effective means of communication.

This item has been voluntarily submitted for review to the School Board Attorney and has been approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida request that the Superintendent, with the assistance of the School Board Attorney:

1. review current District practices, Board policies, local, state and federal law, pertaining to Federal Immigration and other law enforcement authorities on school grounds to ascertain what actions or policies the District may additionally implement to safeguard undocumented immigrant students' right to a free public education by the May 24, 2017 School Board Meeting; and
2. distribute guidelines to all parents, students, employees and stakeholders, by all effective means of communication.