WELCOMING RESOLUTION
DEKALB COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 428

WHEREAS, the mission of DeKalb Community Unit School District 428 is to prepare students to reach their full potential as lifelong learners, and our vision is to guide CUSD 428 to be a cohesive and efficient organization fueled by a deep commitment to responsibly serve our community and a passion towards giving the best learning and growing environment that we can provide to our students and families; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has declared that no public school district may deny any child access to a free public education on the basis of that child’s immigration status (Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)), and the Illinois State Board of Education recognizes this obligation to provide equal access to education in the Illinois Administrative Code (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1.240(b)); and

WHEREAS, CUSD 428 enthusiastically embraces its responsibility to welcome and educate all students regardless of their immigration status, celebrates their contribution to our diverse learning community, and will not be impeded or intimidated from upholding that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, numerous students whose education, safety, emotional well-being and family relationships are at risk because of their immigration status may be, or may in the future be, enrolled in CUSD 428; and

WHEREAS, CUSD 428 is committed to ensuring that its schools are a welcoming and safe place for all of its students and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is not the mission, purpose, or role of CUSD 428 to determine the citizenship or immigration status of any of its students or families, nor to enforce federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around CUSD 428 property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, have the potential to harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled; and

WHEREAS, no federal or state law obligates a public school district to devote any resources, financial or otherwise, to the enforcement of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary source of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health; and

WHEREAS, CUSD 428 believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, families, and community of CUSD 428 to take action through adoption of this Resolution to assure all students and families that it will lawfully discourage, to the greatest extent permitted by law, disruptions to the learning environment that actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or
immigration enforcement actions by other law enforcement personnel, may create.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Community Unit School District 428, DeKalb County, Illinois; as follows:

1. All CUSD 428 schools shall be safe and welcoming places for District students and their families, and CUSD 428 shall protect confidential student information so as to ensure that students’ learning environment is not disrupted by immigration enforcement actions, to the greatest extent permitted by law.

2. CUSD 428 employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall continue to refrain from inquiring about immigration status or requesting to produce documentation regarding immigration status of a student or parent.

3. CUSD 428 employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives, consistent with current policy, shall not, unless compelled by federal, state, or local law, or subsequent to receiving a signed consent to disclosure from the parent(s) or guardian(s) involved, disclose to ICE officers or to any other person or entity any information about any CUSD 428 student that is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA).

4. CUSD 428 shall require a properly executed criminal warrant to justify any arrests, interviews, searches and surveillance, to the greatest extent possible, on school property.

5. The Board of Education declares CUSD 428 to be a safe zone for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the greatest extent permitted by law.

6. The Board hereby prohibits unlawful discrimination or harassment on the basis of immigration status with respect to participation in District programs, services or activities.

7. CUSD 428 shall continue to provide strictly confidential counseling to all students, including those who fear what might happen to them or their family members due to immigration status, and will, without inquiring into the particulars of any student's immigration status, assist in identifying relevant community resources.

8. CUSD 428 shall make public this Resolution to CUSD 428 students and parents and to all employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives by effective means of communication, and translate it into languages commonly spoken in the community served by CUSD 428.

9. CUSD 428 will continue to review its existing policies and procedures and revise them to the extent necessary to comply with this Resolution.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.
Dated and approved this _____day of ____________, 2019

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President, Board of Education

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Secretary, Board of Education