

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
COLLEGE SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF  
SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION #16/17-10**

**Resolution in Support of Students in the  
College School District**

Many years ago many voices in our school community came together in a public forum to define a vision of diversity, work toward solutions, and set goals for the kind of school district and community that we wanted to become. What was apparent then, and remains unchanged today, is that while the delivery of high-quality instruction is our daily focus, learning must take place in a respectful environment where every student feels valued, safe, and heard.

The College School District Board of Trustees believes that the physical safety and emotional well-being of all children and families in our district is critical to students being able to achieve and thrive. Sadly, the highly charged negative discourse taking place at the national level is being felt locally in our schools. Administrators, teachers, and students have shared the real, everyday impact that fear is having in our classrooms.

Federal law guarantees all children the right to a free K-12 public education, including children who were brought to the United States without legal status. Currently, undocumented children are not alone in their fears. The November election was polarizing for students as well as adults. As teachers and students can attest, students who identify as LGBTQ, female, disabled, Muslim, or as a person of color view the recent election through a very different lens than others whose point of view differs and whose vote should be equally respected.

While we are going through a contentious political period, our nation has gone through tumultuous times in the past and, ultimately, we will come together. Our children and our community depend on it.

**WHEREAS**, our ongoing commitment to our community's children is that their schools are a safe place for them and for their families, no matter their immigration, religious, gender, and ability status. A place where words and actions cannot, and should not, harm who they are. A place where each day provides them the opportunity to work with other students and adults so that each one of them can continue to mature and develop into outstanding leaders and contributors to the community. A place where they are cared for by adults and peers who listen to their needs, understand who they are, and support who they want to become;

**WHEREAS**, as a school district community, we stand together and continually work to create a positive culture where every person is respected and valued: an environment where rich dialogue is encouraged amongst our students and staff, but the discourse does not harm a person's identity or well-being; where no election result changes our commitment to ALL of our students, and our students can depend on district staff to model and maintain an environment where they can flourish;

**WHEREAS**, as a Board, we invite parents, neighbors, and those committed to supporting our community's children to work collaboratively with us as we continue to empower them to reach their full potential as responsible, ethical, and productive citizens in a diverse and changing world;

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that as a school district, we will continue to welcome and support children from all backgrounds, including those from undocumented families, will protect the confidentiality of information we have about our students and families, and will keep immigration authorities off our campuses to the fullest extent provided by law.

**APPROVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED ON MARCH 24, 2017**, by the following vote:


Ayes 5

Nays 0

Absent 0

Abstain 0

  
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President, Board of Trustees  
College School District

  
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ATTEST: Vice-President/Clerk, Board of Trustees  
College School District