



COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31

**Community Education Council District 31
Resolution Affirming Commitment to the Education of All Children & Making New York
City Public Schools a Safe Haven for Students and Families**

Dr. Roderick Palton
*Acting Interim District
Superintendent*

**Approved at the March 3rd, 2025 Calendar Meeting by a roll call vote of all members present
(11 in favor/0 opposed/ 0 abstain)**

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Plyler v. Doe (1982) that no public school district may deny any child access to a free public education on the basis of that child's immigration status¹; and

James Desiderato
1st Vice President

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools enthusiastically embraces its responsibility to welcome and educate all students regardless of their immigration status, celebrates their contributions to our diverse learning community, and will not be impeded or intimidated from exercising their responsibility; and

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Andrew Guido
Recording Secretary

WHEREAS, through its policies and practices, New York City Public Schools has made a commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance; and

Joseph Bird
*Treasurer
IEP Representative*

Amanda Wolkowitz
D75 Representative

Daniella Caputo
Teresa Cirelli
*Borough President's
Appointee*

WHEREAS, Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Benjamine Huffman issued a directive that rescinds the current guidelines for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforcement actions that thwart law enforcement in or near "sensitive" areas such as schools and houses of worship; and

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino

WHEREAS, federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around school 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

STUDENT MEMBERS
Jordan Dale
Mia Perez

VACANT
ELL Representative
D31 Representative
D31 Representative
Administrative Assistant

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

¹ <https://guides.loc.gov/latinx-civil-rights/plyler-v-doe>



WHEREAS, the Community Education Council of District 31 (CEC31) is committed to ensuring that each District 31 school is a safe and welcoming place for all its students and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CEC31 believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, and families of our Staten Island community that New York City Public Schools takes action to assure all students and families that disruptions to the educational environment that Immigration and Customs Enforcement actions may create, will be opposed by all legal means available; and

RESOLVED that New York City Public Schools shall continue to provide strictly confidential counseling to all students, including those who fear what might happen to them or family members due to immigration status, and will, without inquiring into the particulars of any student's immigration status, refer each student having such fears to organizations to provide them with accurate information about their rights and responsibilities under immigration law.

RESOLVED that New York City Public Schools and the Staten Island Superintendent of Schools must prepare schools administration for potential unannounced Department of Homeland Security (DHS) raids and should have a plan of action in place as well as who to contact.

RESOLVED that all New York City Public School Districts have an established relationship with an Family Preference (FP) Education Attorney as well as an FP immigration attorney in the event ICE attempts to enter a school building.

RESOLVED that unless specifically required by a valid court order, New York City Public Schools employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives not use District resources for the purpose of detecting or assisting in the apprehension of persons whose only violation of law is or may be being an undocumented resident in the United States, or failing to produce documents authorizing residency in the United States.

RESOLVED that NYC Public School employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall not, unless compelled by a valid court order, or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers or to any other person or entity any information about any New York Public School student that is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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RESOLVED that ICE officers or other immigration law enforcement personnel shall not be granted access to public school facilities, transportation or records for the purpose of enforcing immigration laws unless:

- a. The District Superintendent is notified of the intention to enter, with adequate notice so that the Superintendent can take steps to provide for the emotional and physical safety of students and staff, and
- b. Those requesting to enter provides the Superintendent with credentials, the reasons for the requested entry, and written authorization, provided by law for such entry, and
- c. The Superintendent determines, upon consultation, as appropriate, with District legal counsel, that acquiescence to the requested entry is required by law.

RESOLVED, that District 31 through its policies and practices affirms its commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance regardless of immigration status

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