

Fowler Elementary School District #45
Resolution Declaring FESD a Safe Zone for All Registered Students
Adopted February 11, 2025

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child, regardless of immigration status, to access a free public K-12 education, the District welcomes and supports all students in K - 8th grades;

WHEREAS, the District has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of immigration status, can safely access a free K-8th grade education;

Meanwhile, the district's responsibility is to provide a free and safe public education, including preventing disruption to the learning environment. The district will continue to ensure that visitors on campuses are there only for the benefit of students' educational programming. Visitors present for any law enforcement purpose will be directed to address their inquiries to the District Office unless exigent circumstances exist;

WHEREAS, through its policies and practices, the District has committed to providing a quality education for all students, facilitated by the provision of a safe and stable learning environment, transportation to and from sites (as legally required), the preservation of classroom hours for instruction, and the requirements of school attendance;

WHEREAS, parents and students have expressed to the District fear and confusion about the continued physical and emotional safety of all students as the result of the enforcement of immigration laws and the right to access free public K-8th grade education through District schools and programs;

AND WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional well-being;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District shall prepare for the possibility that a minor child attending school in the District may be deprived of adult care, supervision, or guardianship outside of school due to federal law enforcement action, such as detention by ICE or cooperating law enforcement agency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it continues to be the policy of the District not to allow any law enforcement agent to conduct an immigration enforcement activity on a school site without the express consent of the Superintendent or her designee. The Superintendent or designee shall review the request expeditiously and consult with legal counsel to determine the District's legal obligations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in its continued commitment to the protection of students' privacy, the District shall continue its practice of *only* collecting documentation that serves to verify residency as required by law, and not allowing any immigration law enforcement that interferes with the learning environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should any law enforcement agent (federal or state) conducting an immigration enforcement activity request any student information, the request shall be immediately referred to the Superintendent or designee and reviewed expeditiously in consultation with legal counsel to ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and determine the District's legal obligations with the knowledge that any immigration enforcement on a District site, including schools and the District Office, requires presentation of a judicial warrant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District shall post this resolution at every school site and distribute it to school staff, students, and parents using the usual means of communication, and every effort be made to ensure that translation be made available to all parents in their home language;

