

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER,
STATE OF COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolution Objecting to the Separation of Children and Families

WHEREAS, the Denver Public Schools' Board of Education (the Board) has received a letter from Denver Public Schools leaders and educators expressing their concern regarding the separation of immigrant children from their parents and the life-long impact of the trauma that this causes, particularly for children fleeing violence and extreme poverty in their home nations; and

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools leaders and educators work tirelessly to support students who have been impacted by trauma and are deeply committed to the well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, the Board will not be silent on this issue or any other issue that impacts children; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2017, the Board adopted Resolution 3831 on Becoming a Trauma-Informed School District, which acknowledges the serious consequences on children of traumatic childhood events and the importance of being a Trauma-Informed District; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2017, the Board of Education passed its Safe and Welcoming School District Resolution 3761, which expressed its commitment "to providing safe and welcoming spaces where all students are able to focus on their education, secure in the knowledge that the District will support their safety and emotional well-being regardless of immigration status, national origin, race, or religion"; and

WHEREAS, from the District's work on becoming a Trauma-Informed School District, the District understands the long-term psychological impacts of childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences, and also recognizes that caring for students suffering from trauma can personally impact our dedicated school leaders and educators; and

WHEREAS, these long-term impacts lead to traumatized children being more likely to fail a grade in school, to achieve lower grades, to struggle more with receptive and expressive language, and to have behavior problems which are all barriers to educational access; and

WHEREAS, the District has made substantial investments in whole child supports for our students with the support of Denver residents through the passage of the 2016 Mill Levy Override and we will continue to direct the District to invest in the social emotional and mental health needs of our students; and

WHEREAS, the children suffering these traumatic events at the border reflect the children and communities that we serve in Denver Public Schools and, recognizing the fears that these events can create in our communities, we want to reaffirm our commitment from the Safe and Welcoming School District Resolution to not collect, maintain, or share information about

our students' immigration status -- a commitment that is rooted in the 1982 Supreme Court decision *Plyler v. Doe*, where the Supreme Court ruled that all children in this country have the constitutional right to receive a K-12 education regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need for a longer-term solution through the reform of our nation's immigration policies and have previously called on Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Denver Public Schools Board of Education, standing together with many of our school leaders and educators, demand the immediate end to forcible and traumatic separation of children from their parents by the federal government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we request that the federal government recognize and act quickly to address the trauma caused to children and families by this immoral separation policy.

Resolved this 27th day of June, 2018

Anne Rowe, President

Carrie A. Olson, PhD, Secretary