

## **FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **RESOLUTION 2026-04:**

#### **SAFE SPACES, STRONG FUTURES: STANDING WITH OUR IMMIGRANT SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that, under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, no public school district can deny children access to free public education based on their immigration status or the immigration status of their parents; and

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child in Alaska to access a free public K-12 education free from discrimination, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) affirms its position as a district that welcomes and supports all students, regardless of immigration status, race, color, religion, gender, or country of origin; and

WHEREAS, per FNSBSD Administrative Regulation 1410, “state law explicitly forbids discrimination on the basis of citizenship or immigration status” and “the district has legal requirements to protect students’ private information under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and does not have to permit access to individuals or governmental officials that might disrupt school operations”; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security’s January 20, 2025 memo rescinding the Protected Areas enforcement policy and thus allowing immigration enforcement actions in schools, college campuses, playgrounds, hospitals, places of worship and other social services facilities is causing concern among educators, students and families served by the school district; and

WHEREAS, FNSBSD’s core values are belonging, community, creativity, and growth, we embrace our responsibility to welcome and educate all students regardless of their immigration status, celebrate their contribution to our diverse learning community; and

WHEREAS, FNSBSD employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives do not inquire or collect data regarding a student’s, parent’s, or guardian’s immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the FNSBSD is a district with a large and diverse immigrant, refugee, and foreign-born population, including mixed-status families; and

WHEREAS, the FNSBSD student body includes many active multilingual learners, and at least 68 languages are spoken by students in the FNSBSD; and

WHEREAS, the federal administration has been inconsistent in honoring immigration status and work visas, and certain actions by the federal administration involving the deportation of both documented and undocumented people have been found by some federal courts to be illegal, and have caused fear and distrust of government agencies amongst people of color, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration enforcement activities—such as surveillance, questioning, information requests, arrests, or detentions—on or near district property or transportation routes disrupt the learning environment for all students, regardless of immigration status, by discouraging attendance, participation, and family engagement, thereby undermining the district’s mission to provide a supportive learning environment where all students thrive and hindering their access to a free public K–12 education; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is dedicated, through its policies and practices, to treating all individuals with dignity and respect, fostering a safe, stable, and supportive learning environment, offering reliable transportation services, safeguarding valuable instructional time, controlling access to school facilities, and upholding attendance standards to promote academic success for all students; and

WHEREAS, numerous students whose education, safety, emotional well-being, and family relationships are at risk because of their immigration status are, and will in the future be, enrolled in FNSBSD schools, and educational personnel play a vital role as trusted sources of information and resources, fostering students' emotional and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, the FNSBSD regularly hires education professionals who include naturalized citizens, immigrants with legal status, and international teachers with work visas; and

WHEREAS, we believe that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, families, and community we serve that the District stands firm in assuring all students and families that we will do everything in our lawful power to prevent disruptions to the educational environment that may be created by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District affirms its commitment to provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environment for all students, regardless of immigration status, and will take all lawful measures to prevent any actions by ICE or other federal agencies that would disrupt the educational process, infringe upon the rights of students or their families, or create a climate of fear within our schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will ensure staff are informed of their legal obligations and district policies and administrative regulations regarding the protection of student privacy and restrictions on access to school grounds by state and local non-emergency federal law enforcement, will safeguard student information in accordance with federal and state law, and will stand with families to ensure that every child has uninterrupted access to a free and equitable public education in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District shall distribute this Resolution to all families and employees through effective communication channels and provide translations in the languages commonly used by FNSBSD, including frequently translated Alaska Native languages.

Passed and Approved:

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Melissa Burnett, President  
Board of Education

ATTEST:

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Carmella Richardson  
Board of Education Executive Assistant

