



April 21, 2017

“Dearborn Public Schools will ensure a safe and nurturing environment for all students.”

Greetings,

The above statement, from our District’s Strategic Plan, has always been important to us but now our community has concerns regarding schools being “a safe and nurturing environment”. The concern does not come from events or activities taking place in our schools rather the concern is from current national discussion on deporting undocumented immigrants, the authority of federal agencies in acquiring information about students, and how it relates to public schools in Michigan.

We want to assure our parents and students that the Dearborn Public Schools will continue its commitment to welcome individuals from all walks of life. Our diverse employees, students, their families and the community that we serve are who we are. Their diverse knowledge, skills, background, and experiences enlighten and strengthen our school community. They contribute to its growth, and provide a foundation for tomorrow’s leaders. We are committed to student success and providing an open door to their educational and professional goals. This long standing commitment is woven throughout our School District Mission Statement, values, policies, services, and daily practices. The entire Strategic Plan, including our Core Values, can be found on the District website, www.dearbornschools.org.

It is critical that our community understand that at this time we have had no contact by any Federal officials requesting any type of student records or information. We also spoke with the Mayor, officials from the Federal Government, FBI, the Chief of Police, and Immigration. It is our belief and understanding that immigration officials will not ask to access our buildings, students, or student records. However, in order to be prepared, we have informed all principals that if they, or any of their staff, are contacted by immigration officials they will not grant them access to student information as supported by federal and state student privacy law. Instead they will refer them to the Director of Student Services or other Central Office Administrators.

We have consulted with our attorneys and they provided us with sound legal advice allowing us to, in accordance with the Family Educational Records Privacy Act (FERPA), not disclose the private educational records of our students without the legal guardian’s consent or as required by law. In addition, in accordance with applicable federal laws, if we were to encounter inquiries by

immigration officials, they must include the required search warrant and/or court order to obtain access to legally protected private areas, student and employee information, and/or records. (Except in those rare occurrence when evidence is provided that shows an immediate threat of danger to the well-being of students, staff, or the school).

Our District always has and always will embrace and champion diversity, equality, and education for all. Our Board of Education recently passed a resolution saying as much. We ensure an equal and rigorous education for all students no matter race, religion, ethnicity, or immigration status. In alignment with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, we are committed to each and every child to continue our practice and our commitment regardless of religious beliefs or ethnic background. We are steadfast in our commitment because “Students Come First”!

Regards,



Glenn Maleyko, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Ibrahim Mashhour
Director of Student Services

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