



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Karen Janney, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 20, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our commitment in the Sweetwater Union High School District is to maintain an educational environment that values all students and that is free from discrimination or disparaging treatment. In light of immigration uncertainties raised during present times, it has come to our attention that some of you are concerned about how our local schools might be impacted under the new administration's immigration policies. Our Board of Education recently approved **Resolution No. 4468 – Advocating for and Protecting Each of the District's Students**. The Board of Trustees is boldly declaring its on-going commitment to ensuring all schools and district offices are safe and positive environments wherein each student and each employee is protected from all forms of discrimination, harassment or intimidation of any kind, be it based on age, gender, gender identity, or expression, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, immigration status, or the perception of one or more of these characteristics.

We must ensure our schools remain a welcoming environment for students and parents, regardless of their immigration status. The Supreme Court has previously noted that "education is perhaps the most important function of state and local government," and that "education prepares individuals to be self-reliant and self-sufficient participants in society." In 1982, the Supreme Court held that all students, including those who could not prove they had been legally admitted to the United States, could not be denied access to school based on their immigration status.

In addition, in 2014, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 4, labeled the California Trust Act, which prohibits city and county law enforcement officers from detaining certain individuals who do not have criminal records based solely on their immigration status. If you, or someone you know, needs assistance in immigration services, please contact Ready Now San Diego at readynowsandiego.org or call (619) 363-3423. To improve student success and achievement, we want all students and their families, including those who immigrated to the United States, to know and understand that they are safe, welcomed, respected, and included at all District facilities, school buildings, in school buses, on school grounds, and at all school-sponsored activities. We must preserve our schools now and forever to be sensitive locations where any government agency including Immigration and Customs Enforcement will not seek to detain and deport immigrant families who pose no threat to community safety.

We will be hosting a series of Community Forums in collaboration with our community partners such as ACLU, Alliance San Diego, and others. Topics to be addressed include: Know Your Rights, DACA, Family Preparation, Immigration Relief, Fraud Prevention, etc. You are invited to attend any of the following sessions: **April 20th from 6:00-8:00 pm at Castle Park High School, April 25th from 9:00-11:00 am at Sweetwater High School, May 4th from 9:00-11:00 and 6:00-8:00 pm at Southwest High School, May 9th from 6:00-8:00 pm at Otay Ranch High School, and May 16th from 6:00-8:00 pm at Hilltop High School**. Further details will be shared with your student's current school of attendance.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our schools. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Equity, Culture, and Student Services Department at (619) 691-5564.

Sincerely,

Karen Janney, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The Sweetwater Union High School District will fulfill the promise of 100% student success.

Sweetwater Union High School District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on age, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

SUHSD Board Policy 0410.