



Superintendent
Jim A. Yovino

Trustee Area 1
Ismael Herrera

Trustee Area 2
Mike Robinson

Trustee Area 3
Nelson Esparza

Trustee Area 4
Delbert Cederquist

Trustee Area 5
Allen Clyde

BEFORE THE FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND THE FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Board and
Superintendent's Commitment to Ensure
Safe Learning for All

Resolution No. 2017 - 04 (FCBE)
Resolution No. 2017 - 04 (FCSS)

WHEREAS, the Fresno County Board of Education and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools continually strive to ensure that every student develops the enduring knowledge, skills, and character to thrive in a changing world, and wish to reaffirm that commitment; and,

WHEREAS, our community commitments state that a safe, nurturing environment is necessary for learning and that the ability of children to learn is affected by social, health and economic conditions and other factors outside the classroom; and,

WHEREAS, as outlined in our nondiscrimination policy, we commit to providing a safe environment where all are treated equally regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religious creed, age, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition, veteran status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or sexual orientation. This means that all children are embraced as full members of our school community, and that all students have a right to an education, regardless of any differences, including immigration status; and,

WHEREAS, public schools and school districts in California are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation; and,

WHEREAS, any resident of the state of California who has attained the age of eligibility and is under the age of 21 years is entitled to attend public school in the school district where he or she is a resident; and,

WHEREAS, under United States Supreme Court precedent, all children are entitled to a public education regardless of their immigration status or the status of their parents; and,

WHEREAS, it is not our mission, purpose, or role to determine the citizenship or immigration status of any of our students or families, or to enforce federal immigration laws; and,

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, voters in California and across the nation participated in the democratic process by casting votes; and,

WHEREAS, California voters during the 2016 General Election expressed strong support for public schools by embracing bilingual education through Proposition 58, strengthening funding sources through Proposition 55, and modernizing school facilities through Proposition 51; and,

WHEREAS, fifty-five different languages are spoken in Fresno County schools including Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, Arabic, and Lao; and

WHEREAS, as of 2015-16, 128,580 of 200,333 students in Fresno County schools are of Latino descent, and more than 71 percent of all students qualify for free and reduced lunch; and,

WHEREAS, we maintain our commitment to remaining nonpartisan on politics; however, we want to respond to the fear and anxiety some students are currently experiencing, knowing that our primary responsibility is to take care of our students; and,

WHEREAS, we want our community to know that schools and classrooms are safe and inclusive places for all students and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Education and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools publicly affirm that our schools shall be safe, inclusive, supportive, and positive environments, and shall provide a safe learning environment for all students and their families. We also encourage all 32 school districts in Fresno County to similarly join with us in their continuing commitment to providing a safe learning environment for all students. We commit to the following:

- All students have a legal right to an education regardless of any differences, including immigration status. We will continue to advocate for and embrace all students as full members of our school community.
- We will continue to take any and all actions authorized by law and our policies to provide equal opportunities and safe learning spaces for all of our students.
- Our schools will remain safe and supportive spaces for students and their families, free from intimidation, hostility, or violence, including threat of deportation because of participation in the public education system.
- While we comply with all lawful subpoenas and court orders, we do not collaborate with immigration enforcement agencies or share information regarding students or parents that is protected by federal and state laws.
- We will model the behavior we hope to teach, including listening before speaking, seeking mutual understanding, treating one another with respect, communicating honestly, and avoiding inflammatory rhetoric.
- We will continue to teach tolerance and inclusion in our schools, set clear and high expectations for how we treat one another, and encourage and equip our educators to address difficult issues around race, discrimination and other challenges with students.
- We will continue to create a sense of belonging to all – building a larger circle of “we” and a broader understanding of our commonalities and differences.

- We will act where we have influence and make a difference wherever we can.
- All students should be able to access their education without fear or limitation on the possibilities for the future, in an environment that encourages them to realize their dreams. We will do everything we can to remove limitations and to nurture and prepare our students to thrive in a changing world.


This Resolution is adopted by the Fresno County Board of Education at its meeting of February 16, 2017 by the following votes:

President Delbert Cederquist:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President Ismael Herrera:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Member Mike Robinson:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Member Nelson Esparza:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Member Allen Clyde:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>



 Delbert Cederquist, President

This Resolution is adopted by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools as of the date immediately stated below as evident by his signature hereunder:




 Jim A. Yovino, Superintendent

Date: 2/16/17

CERTIFICATION

I am the Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the Fresno County Board of Education and hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the full, true, and correct resolution duly passed and adopted by the Fresno County Board of Education on the date stated above.

By: 

 Jim A. Yovino, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
 Ex-Officio Secretary and Executive Officer of the
 Fresno County Board of Education

Date: 2/16/17