WELCOMING & SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL

#CaliforALL

Model Resolution

OVERVIEW
The Welcoming and Safe Schools for All model resolution emerged from a successful delegation meeting of youth leaders from organizations affiliated with Youth Organize! California network with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson’s office, organized by the Advancement Project and Movement Strategy Center in May 2017. Since May 2017, an ad hoc committee of youth organizations including Genders and Sexualities Alliance Network, Californians for Justice, RYSE Center, Khmer Girls in Action, Del Norte and Tribal Lands Building Healthy Communities, Resilience Orange County, Dolores Huerta Foundation, and InnerCity Struggle have worked with the Advancement Project and Movement Strategy Center to draft a model resolution on Welcoming and Safe Schools for All. The resolution provides a holistic model that school districts and other local education agencies can use to develop their own resolutions and policies.

BACKGROUND

The resolution focuses on expanding “safe haven” schools to include all students impacted by the current climate of fear and hate in the wake of the 2016 elections, particularly indigenous, African American, Latinx, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander students, undocumented, immigrant, and refugee students, transgender and LGBTQ students, Muslim and Sikh students, homeless students, English Learner students, foster youth, low-income students, students with special needs, and students impacted by the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

RESOLUTION OVERVIEW

The resolution outlines commitments for local education agencies to take action in three broad areas to proactively uplift Welcoming and Safe Schools for All Students:

Safety and Protection for All Students, including:

- Protecting immigrant students and families from immigration enforcement, especially as outlined in Assembly Bill 699 and the California Attorney General’s Model Policy
- Protecting the various religious and spiritual rights of all students and their families
- Protecting the rights of all students, especially transgender and gender nonconforming students, to define their own gender identity, names, and pronouns
- Protecting the rights of all students and families to speak their own languages, especially local indigenous languages and home languages, without punishment, ridicule, or penalization
- Incorporating practices to resolve conflicts in positive ways such as Restorative Justice practices to protect students and their families from "zero tolerance" policies and criminalization on and around campuses

- Limiting police presence on campuses to intervention in instances of real and immediate physical threat to the safety of students or staff to the greatest extent possible and when legally feasible

- Eliminating guns from school campuses

**Supports and Services for All Students, including:**

- Providing mental health, trauma-informed, culturally-based, healing and relationship centered services and practices

- Implementing restorative and transformative justice practices and strategies

- Investing more in counselors in order to promote and maintain a safe learning environment for all pupils

- Providing effective, confidential counseling services, holistic wellness centers, and opportunities for affinity group gatherings to help meet the social, emotional, mental, and physical health needs of students and their families

- Providing additional supports and services to ensure students impacted by juvenile and criminal justice systems have access to all schools, services, educational opportunities, and facilities

- Providing immigration services and resources to undocumented, immigrant, and refugee students and their families

**Affirming and Celebrating Diversity, including:**

- Providing training to all staff and administrators and conducting school-wide and other educational events to increase understanding of the ethnic, racial, linguistic, religious, and spiritual diversity of the community and state

- Conducting school-wide and other educational events to address transphobia, homophobia, and other discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity

- To the extent possible, providing credit-based courses and instruction in local indigenous languages and other languages that reflect the linguistic diversity of the community and state, and ethnic and gender studies courses that reflect the racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual diversity of the community and state

- Continuing to ensure that all schools are safe, welcoming, brave, and relationship centered spaces that embrace students and their families in all of their identities and uplift the agency of students and their families to actively participate in their own learning, school decision-making, civic and community life
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