

January 14, 2025

We, the undersigned superintendents and board members, write to address concerns in the wake of the incoming Administration's threats of mass deportation. As the California county with the largest concentration of immigrant community members, we want to assure Santa Clara County residents that schools will continue to stand firmly in support of students and families no matter their citizenship status.

The United States is a nation of immigrants that has benefited from the vitality, resolve, and enthusiasm of those seeking the American dream. Our history is enriched by people from all over the world who have brought their culture, language, and religion to our great nation. Immigrant families, including those seeking asylum, contribute to the fabric of our country and schools play a significant role in helping immigrant students adapt and thrive.

We write today to reaffirm our commitment to protecting immigrant students and families and ensuring they feel safe, welcome, and supported at school. We are firm in this commitment, not just because it is morally right, but because the US Supreme Court has long held that all children in the United States have an equal right to enroll and participate in public elementary and secondary schools without regard to their or their families' citizenship status. (*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982).) As school leaders, we are required to uphold this law in both letter and spirit; therefore, we will use all the resources at our disposal to ensure that immigrant students and families are not just accepted but feel safe enough to attend, participate, share, and seek support at school.

We are deeply grateful for the trust our community has placed in the public school system and understand that, in order for that trust to continue, we must be clear and transparent about how we plan to respond to immigration-enforcement actions. To that end:

- If an immigration-enforcement officer arrives at a school site, they will not be allowed on campus unless they have a signed judicial warrant or can demonstrate exigent circumstances.
- If information about a student is requested by immigration-enforcement officers, school staff will work with legal counsel to avoid disclosure, unless required by a judicial warrant, and will notify parents or guardians before any information is shared.
- School staff will not collect or maintain any information about students' or families' citizenship status, except as required to administer a state or federally supported educational program, and will assert our right not to collaborate with immigration-enforcement officers to the greatest extent allowed by law.

For students and families seeking additional information or support, please visit <https://www.sccoe.org/supoffice/Pages/Immigrant-Student-Resources.aspx> to learn more

about the legal resources available to support our immigrant community and how to create a family preparedness plan.

Whatever challenges may come, we stand prepared to face them arm-in-arm with our community and will work to ensure that Santa Clara schools are a place where all students can attend and thrive without fear.

In solidarity,



Dr. Charles Hinman  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
Interim Superintendent



Sandra McGonagle  
Los Altos School District  
Superintendent



Maimona Afzal Berta  
Santa Clara County Board of Education  
President



Dr. Elida MacArthur  
Mount Pleasant Elementary School District  
Superintendent



Chris Norwood  
Santa Clara County School Boards  
Association,  
Legislative Action Committee  
President



Cheryl Jordan  
Milpitas Unified School District  
Superintendent



German Cerda  
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District  
Superintendent



Eric Volta  
Mountain View - Los Altos Union High  
School District  
Superintendent



Roxane Fuentes  
Berryessa Union School District  
Superintendent



Jeffrey Baier  
Interim Superintendent  
Mountain View Whisman School District

Kristi Schwiebert  
Cambrian School District  
Superintendent

Dr. Shelly Viramontez  
Campbell Union School District  
Superintendent

Glenn Vander Zee  
East Side Union High School District  
Superintendent

Graham Clark  
Fremont Union High School District  
Superintendent

Anisha Munshi  
Gilroy Unified School District  
Superintendent

Carmen Garcia  
Morgan Hill Unified School District  
Superintendent

Dr. Ivan Chaidez  
Oak Grove School District  
Superintendent

Dr. Jeffrey Bowman  
Orchard School District  
Superintendent

Dr. Gary Waddell  
Santa Clara Unified School District  
Superintendent

Michael Gallagher  
Sunnyvale School District  
Superintendent

Carrie Andrews, Ph.D.  
Union School District  
Superintendent