

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, VOICES COLLEGE-BOUND
LANGUAGE ACADEMY

**Declaring and Identifying School Campus as Safe Zones and Resource Centers for Students
and Families Affected by Immigration Actions**

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court held in Plyer v. Doe (1982) that no public school district has a basis to deny children access to education based on their immigration status, citing that children have little control over their immigration status, and noting the harm it would inflict on the child and society itself, and noting the equal protection rights of the 14th Amendment; and,

Whereas, the fact of injudicious and indiscriminate immigration enforcement affects Voices families every day, and has created a climate of heightened fear and anxiety for many Voices staff, students and their families; and,

Whereas, ICE activities in and around our schools would be a severe disruption to the learning environment and educational setting for Voices students; and,

Whereas, some government agencies have adopted policies that resist any government action that may lead to the discovery of a person's immigration status; and,

Whereas, ICE's 2011 policy states that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials; unless exigent circumstances exist; and,

Whereas, there is no written State or federal law that mandates that local school districts or charter schools assist ICE in the enforcement of immigration laws; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Voices College-Bound Language Academy hereby declares that every school site is a safe place for all its staff, students and their families and that students and their families can come to any school or office to seek help, assistance, information, shelter and safety if faced with fear and anxiety about from any and all immigration enforcement efforts; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that any request by ICE for information, or to visit or access a school site shall be immediately forwarded to the Executive Director and school Counsel for review, and a decision on whether to allow access to the school site, and/or to provide the information shall be made consistent with this Resolution and other applicable laws; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board encourages the Executive Director to increase and enhance partnerships with community-based organizations and legal services organizations that provide resources for families facing immigration actions; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board reaffirm the authority of the Executive Director to protect the data and identities of any student, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent provided by the law; and, be it finally; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Executive Director shall ensure that all Voices staff will be informed of this Resolution, and that a posting of this resolution in multiple languages be implemented at all school sites and Voices Network Offices; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board reaffirms Voice's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a safe educational environment for all students, serving as a safe haven for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent provided by the law.