

Resolution in Support of Immigrant Students and Caregivers/Families in Somerville Public Schools

WHEREAS, Somerville Public Schools (SPS) is committed to providing an inclusive, equitable, and safe learning environment for all students and caregivers/families, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or immigration status;

WHEREAS, SPS affirms the belief that every student has the right to access high-quality education in a safe environment that respects their dignity and rights;

WHEREAS, SPS prohibits discrimination and harassment based on protected classes;

WHEREAS, SPS maintains a strong commitment to protecting the rights of immigrant students and their families, and ensures the following protections:

1. SPS does not ask for families' immigration status.
2. SPS will not coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
3. SPS will not allow ICE agents access to SPS facilities without a criminal judicial warrant signed by a federal judge.
4. SPS will not share student records with ICE without parent/guardian consent or a court order issued by a judge.

WHEREAS, SPS ensures that staff will only send students home with caregivers/family members or friends who have been approved by the child's parent or guardian, and encourages parents and guardians to keep emergency contact information up-to-date by contacting their child's school;

WHEREAS, SPS principals have received training on protecting students' rights and best practices for responding to interactions with ICE;

WHEREAS, SPS is proud of our a robust family engagement department that works closely with community partners to support immigrant families, and encourages families to reach out to their school's family liaisons, counselors, and social workers for any support;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Somerville School Committee reaffirms its commitment to protecting the rights of all students, including immigrant students, and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students and families in Somerville Public Schools.

This resolution shall be made publicly available and communicated to all SPS families, faculty, and staff.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: February 3, 2025

By: The Somerville School Committee