

RESOLUTION # 06-01-15-25
Metropolitan Education District
Creating Safe Zone Environment at MetroED

WHEREAS, it is the right of every child, regardless of immigration status, to access a free public K-12 education and the Metropolitan Education District (MetroED) welcomes and supports all students; and

WHEREAS, the MetroED has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of immigration status, can safely access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around MetroED property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled and significantly interfere with the ability of all students, including U.S. citizen students and students who hold other legal grounds for presence in the U.S., to access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, through its policies and practices, MetroED has made a commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance; and

WHEREAS, parents and students have expressed to the MetroED fear and confusion about the physical and emotional safety of all students and the right to access a free public K-12 education through MetroED programs; and

WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Immigrations Enforcement Office (ICE), state or local law enforcement agencies acting on behalf of ICE, or agents or officers for any federal, state, or local agency attempting to enforce federal immigration laws, are to follow MetroED Policy 5145.13, attached to and incorporated in this Resolution, to ensure MetroED meets its duty to provide all students, regardless of immigration status, access to a free public K-12 education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board declares the MetroED to be a Safe Zone for its students, meaning that MetroED is a place for students to learn, to thrive and to seek assistance, information, and support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MetroED shall work with our partner districts to support plans in the event a minor child attending school MetroED is deprived of adult care, supervision, or guardianship outside of school due to a federal law enforcement action, such as detention by ICE or a cooperating law enforcement agency;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it continues to be the policy of MetroED not to allow any individual or organization to enter a school site if the educational setting would be disrupted by that visit; given the likelihood of substantial disruption posed by the presence of ICE or state or local law enforcement agencies acting for ICE, any request by ICE or other agencies to visit a school site should be presented to the Superintendent's Office for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, a judicial warrant is required, or any other legal considerations apply; this review should be made expeditiously, but before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer appears at a school site;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in its continued commitment to the protection of student privacy, MetroED shall review its record-keeping policies and practices to ensure that no data is being collected with respect to students' immigration status or place of birth; and cease any such collection as it is irrelevant to the educational enterprise and potentially discriminatory;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should ICE or other immigration law enforcement agents request any student information, the request should be referred to the Superintendent's Office to ensure compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, and any other limitation on disclosure; this review should be conducted expeditiously, but before any production of information is made;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MetroED shall post this Resolution at every program site and distribute it to MetroED staff, students, and parents using usual means of communication, and that the Resolution will be translated into all languages spoken by students at home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Superintendent shall report back on compliance with this Resolution to the Board at its next meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board directs the Superintendent to review MetroED policies and practices regarding bullying and report back to the Board at its next meeting and communicate to staff, students, and parents the importance of maintaining a bullying-free environment for all students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board affirms that certificated MetroED employees have the academic freedom to discuss this Resolution during class time provided it is age-appropriate; and students are to be made aware that MetroED counselors are available to discuss the subjects contained in this Resolution.

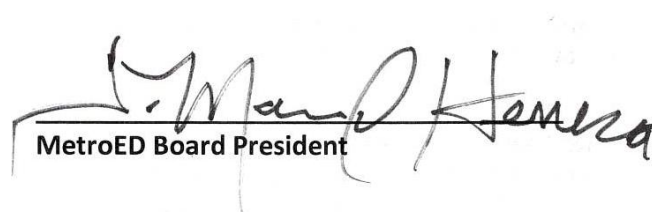
Adopted this 15th day of January 2025, by the Metropolitan Education District School Board.

AYES: J. Manuel Herrera, Linda Goytia, Jim Canova, Brian Wheatley, Katherine Tseng, Chris Norwood

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0


MetroED Board President