



RESOLUTION 2012/13-26

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Board of Education
Linda M. Trujillo, President
Steven J. Carrillo, Vice President
Lorraine T. Price, Secretary
Glenn Wikle, Member
Susan Duncan, Member

- 1 Urging Congress and the President of the United States to Enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform that
2 Considers the Needs of Children and Youth
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- 4 **WHEREAS**, New Mexico shares historic, cultural, family and economic ties to Mexico; and
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- 6 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that twelve million immigrants reside and work in the United States without
7 legal immigration status; and
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- 9 **WHEREAS**, comprehensive immigration reform aligns with American core principles of opportunity,
10 prosperity, entrepreneurialism and family unity; and
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- 12 **WHEREAS**, the United States enjoys a history of embracing immigrants who have been absorbed into the
13 republic; and
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- 15 **WHEREAS**, the current federal immigration system perpetuates the separation of families; and
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- 17 **WHEREAS**, children who are immigrants themselves and U.S. citizen children with immigrant parents face
18 high rates of emotional trauma, economic instability, poor educational outcomes, and limited access to
19 critical services and programs, and
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- 21 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security reports that 205,000 parents of U.S. citizen children
22 were deported in the 26 months between July 2010 and September 2012; and
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- 24 **WHEREAS**, unaccompanied immigrant children are vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation, and are at
25 high risk of becoming victims of trafficking; and
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- 27 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education believes that our future prosperity depends on
28 ensuring that all children are safe and have access to quality education and the resources and support to
29 achieve their full potential; and
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- 31 **WHEREAS**, First Focus, a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the
32 priority in federal policy and budget decisions, led the effort to develop the following principles to ensure
33 that efforts at immigration reform consider the best interests of children and their families:
- 34 • **A direct, clear and reasonable pathway to citizenship.** Any pathway to citizenship must be open,
35 affordable, safe, and accessible to children in need of status, including Deferred Action for Childhood
36 Arrivals (DACA), undocumented children under the age of 21, and unaccompanied immigrant
37 children.
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 - 39 • **Protection and promotion of children’s fundamental rights.** Our immigration system must uphold
40 children’s constitutional rights to ensure equal access to critical public services, programs, and
41 economic supports for children and their families. The protection of fundamental rights also includes
42 ensuring all children receive legal representation before all immigration authorities and, for all

43 unaccompanied children, the appointment of an independent child advocate from the moment of
44 detention throughout the course of any immigration or other related court proceedings.
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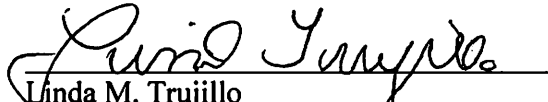
- 46 • **Ensure that enforcement efforts have appropriate protections for children.** In all enforcement
47 actions, including those along the border, the best interests of the child should be a primary
48 consideration and children must be given the benefit of the doubt during any investigation, inquiry or
49 detention. There should be appropriate and accountable training policies and protocols for interacting
50 with and screening children that reflects a humanitarian and protection-oriented approach prohibits
51 the use of force with children, and creates reasonable and safe conditions for children while in or
52 released from the custody of all arms of the federal government.
53
- 54 • **Keep families together.** All policies regarding admissibility, enforcement, detention, and deportation
55 of children and their parents must duly consider the best interests of children, including enabling
56 immigration judges to exercise discretion in admission and removal decisions based on the hardship
57 of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent resident children. The immigration system must be updated by
58 resolving current backlogs and ensuring family-based immigration channels are adequate for future
59 migration without lengthy family separation.
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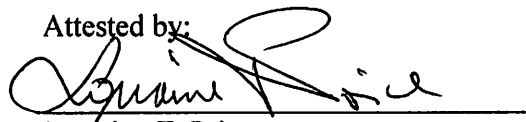
61 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education that
62 Congress and the President of the United States be urged to expeditiously enact comprehensive immigration
63 reform that considers the needs of children and youth by incorporating the principles above; and
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65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be provided to the President of the United
66 States of America and each member of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation.
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69 **ADOPTED this 22nd day of April, 2013**
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71 Attested by:

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74 Linda M. Trujillo
75 Board of Education President
76 Santa Fe Public Schools

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73 _____
74 Lorraine T. Price
75 Board of Education Secretary
76 Santa Fe Public Schools