



Nov. 14, 2016

Dear DPS Community:

We wanted to express our gratitude to the school leaders and educators who supported our students during a time of strong emotions. In our diverse community of almost 90,000 students, we recognize that many students and their families are struggling with intensely personal questions, concerns and fears about the impact of the election. Our critical mission is to ensure that our schools are safe spaces where a student's race, ethnicity, religion and immigration status do not create any barriers to that child's education. To assist this mission, we wanted to share answers to the following questions regarding immigration status and our commitment to protect students from discrimination and harassment.

#### **Your Questions Answered:**

**Q: What impact does undocumented immigration status have on my child's education?**

**A:** None! Children have a constitutional right to have equal access to education regardless of their immigration status or their parents' status. That right cannot be taken away by the president or the state or federal legislatures.

**Q: Does Denver Public Schools ask for a child's immigration status when he or she enrolls?**

**A:** No. Public school districts like DPS have an obligation to enroll students regardless of their immigration status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.

**Q: Would the school district ever share our students' immigration status with the federal immigration officials?**

**A:** As mentioned above, we do not ask for students' immigration status when they enroll. However, if we became aware of a student's lack of immigration status, we would not share that information with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

**Q: What does Denver Public Schools do to ensure that no student or family is discriminated against or harassed because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin?**

**A:** DPS believes deeply in ensuring equity – it is one of our core values. We have policies in place that mandate no discrimination or harassment for our students, families or employees on the base of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin and many other protected classes.

**Q: What should I do if I feel like I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment?**

**A:** Please report the behavior immediately to a supervisor, school leader or to the superintendent. Complaints and concerns can be filed using the forms and procedures in Board Policy AC (click [here](#)). We take these complaints very seriously in order to assure that our schools continue to be safe spaces.

**Q: What immediate impact will the election have on me or my family if we do not have lawful immigration status?**

**A:** There will be no changes to the immigration laws before the incoming president takes office in January 2017. And even then, the immigration laws are passed by the legislature and there is no way to know with certainty if the legislature will make any changes to the immigration laws.

**Q: What about if I am a DACA recipient?**

**A:** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is based on an order by the president. The new president could choose to rescind that order. If you are a recipient of DACA, consider reaching out to an immigration attorney now in order to determine if you have access to a better form of immigration status. Additional information can be found [here](#).

**Q: What should I do if I want to understand my immigration rights?**

**A:** Only immigration attorneys can provide you with accurate advice about immigration status and how you can pursue any legal rights you might have. For your own protection, please do not seek the advice of [notarios](#) or others who are not licensed immigration attorneys. A list of available resources can be found [here](#). Also, you can seek an immigration attorney from the American Immigration Lawyers Association [here](#) (English) or [here](#) (Spanish).