

To All of Our New Hope Families,

Student safety at New Hope Charter School is our top priority. It is our desire to continue in providing a physical and emotional environment that is safe, regardless of a student's background. What makes our school unique is that we have over 13 languages represented as well as many cultural heritages that define our students.

All children in the United States, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, have a right to a free and appropriate public education. The threat of immigration enforcement can impair the ability of many students, including those who are undocumented and those who are United States citizens, to thrive in our schools. A 2020 Harvard report found pervasive fear of immigration enforcement in schools, resulting in increases in emotional and behavioral problems among immigrant students, reduced commitment to school and the idea of going to college, and increased absenteeism. Surveys found the threat of immigration enforcement affected US citizen students as well, as students worried about the fate of family members, friends, and classmates.

- The U.S. Supreme Court has long guaranteed that all children have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status, per *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982). (See <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/ll/usrep/usrep457/usrep457202/usrep457202.pdf>.)
- Every student in California has the right to attend public school in the state free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying. (California *Education Code* [EC] 220, 234, et seq.)
- Per Assembly Bill 699 (2017), schools are not to collect information about families' immigration status unless required by law and LEAs must pass policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools. (Access the bill at [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB699](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB699).)
- New Hope staff and personnel do not report student information or information about any of our families to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act prevents schools from sharing student educational information with ICE. Without a court order or subpoena or parental consent, this information sharing could violate a student and family's constitutional and civil rights.

We are here in partnership with you and will continue to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the New Hope Office at (916) 649-5077, ext. 201

Respectfully,

Herinder Pegany, Executive Director