

## **Policy Regarding Enrollment and Services for Students Regardless of Immigration Status**

Approved by WCS Board on April 17, 2025

**Purpose:** This policy affirms the commitment of Woods Charter School to providing a free public education to all children enrolled at the school, regardless of their or their parents' or guardians' immigration status. This policy is in accordance with federal law, including Plyler v. Doe (1982), and North Carolina state law.

### **Enrollment:**

1. **Equal Access:** All students eligible to enroll in Woods Charter School have the right to enroll in school, regardless of their or their parents'/guardians' immigration status.
2. **Required Documentation:** The following documents may be requested for enrollment:
  - Proof of student's age (e.g., birth certificate, passport, other reliable documentation).
  - Proof of residency within the state ((e.g., utility bill, lease agreement, other reliable documentation).
  - Immunization records or a valid exemption.
  - Prior school records, if available.
3. **Prohibited Actions:** School personnel shall *not*:
  - Inquire about the immigration status of students or their parents/guardians.
  - Require social security numbers for enrollment.
  - Deny enrollment based on suspected or known immigration status.
  - Request documentation that is not directly related to residency, age, or immunization.
  - Report or disclose student or family information to immigration enforcement agencies unless legally required by a valid court order or subpoena.
4. **Language Access:** The School will provide language assistance services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) students and their families to ensure meaningful access to enrollment and all school programs and services.

### **Student Services:**

1. **Equal Access to Programs and Services:** All students, regardless of immigration status, have an equal rights and privileges to participate in all school programs generally available, including but not limited to:
  - Academic instruction
  - Special education services
  - English as a Second Language (ESL) programs
  - Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program
  - Extracurricular activities
  - Counseling services

2. **Confidentiality:** School personnel will maintain the confidentiality of student records and information, including any information related to immigration status, to the extent permitted by law.
3. **Staff Training:** All school personnel will receive annual training on this policy and related legal requirements, including FERPA and student privacy.
4. **Collaboration with Community Organizations:** The school district will collaborate with community organizations that provide legal and social services to immigrant families to connect students and families with needed resources.

**Review and Revision:** This policy will be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure compliance with all laws and best practices.

**Legal References:**

- Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)