HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safe and Welcoming Schools FAQ

HSD schools are safe places for students. We recognize the diversity and worth of all students, individuals and groups, and are committed to both educating and providing a safe and inclusive environment for everyone, regardless of their immigration status, race, color, religion or any other basis. We do not collect or track any information regarding a student's or their family members' immigration or citizenship status.

Following are answers to some common questions regarding immigration status and our commitment to protect students from discrimination and harassment.

We will post additional information and resources to our website as they become available. If you have questions or concerns in the meantime, please feel free to talk to your child's principal, counselor, teacher, or to someone in our Office for School Performance (503-844-1500).

Your Questions Answered:

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

A: Children have a constitutional right to have equal access to education regardless of their immigration status or their parents' status.

Q. Does the Hillsboro School District ask for a child's immigration status when he or she enrolls?

A. No. Public school districts like HSD 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 federal immigration officials?

A. No. As mentioned above, we do not ask for, collect, or maintain information about students' immigration status.

Q. Are School Resource Officers (SROs) or other local law enforcement officials going to target my child while they're in school?

A. Absolutely not! Our SROs are in our schools to serve and support all students, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. It is not the role or mission of local police to use resources on immigration issues.

Q. Could my child ever be removed from school?

A. Police or government officials cannot take a student from a school without a court order, making an arrest, a protective custody order, or permission from the parent or guardian. If a warrant, subpoena, or authorization from a parent or guardian is presented to the school office, the principal will contact the district's attorney before taking any action.

Q. What does HSD do to ensure that no student or family is discriminated against or harassed because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin?

A. HSD believes deeply that all people are treated in a respectful manner. We have policies in place that mandate no discrimination or harassment of our students, families or employees on the basis 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: Nondiscrimination and AC-AR: Discrimination Complaint Procedure. We take these complaints very seriously in order to assure that our schools continue to be safe spaces.

Q. What if I am a recipient of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or if I have questions about 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. You can seek an immigration attorney from the American Immigration Lawyers Association here (English) or here (Spanish).

Portions of this FAQ were borrowed from Denver Public Schools, Salem-Keizer Public Schools, and the Washington County Sheriff's Department.