GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Level:	Accompanying Procedure:	Descriptor Code:	Rescinds
Policy J-Students		JBCF	NEW
Descriptor Term:		Effective Date:	
Safe Zones, Student Privacy, Educational Access, and Student Protection			

Keywords:
Student Discipline:
Policy References:

Purpose

The Board affirms its duty to provide safe, supportive, and disruption-free learning environments and to ensure equal access to public education for all eligible students residing within the district. This policy establishes Safe Zone standards, student privacy protections, and uniform procedures for responding to immigration enforcement-related activity affecting students and families.

This policy supports district commitments to student safety and well-being, educational equity, cultural and linguistic competence, trauma-informed practice, and whole-child support. It aligns with the district strategic direction and equity framework.

Policy Statement

All eligible students have the right to enroll in and attend district schools without discrimination based on actual or perceived immigration status, citizenship status, national origin, or language background. District schools and programs shall operate as Safe Zones focused on learning, safety, belonging, and student well-being.

Non-Discrimination and Access

Enrollment, participation, and services shall not be denied based on immigration status or citizenship classification. Schools shall follow existing district enrollment documentation requirements and shall not require immigration status disclosure as a condition of enrollment.

Birthright Citizenship Protection

District personnel shall not question or challenge the citizenship of U.S. born students. Identity and age documents are used only for lawful enrollment purposes.

Student Data and Privacy

Student records are protected by federal and state privacy law. The district shall not collect or maintain

immigration status information unless required by law. Requests for student information by enforcement agents must be referred to the Superintendent or designee and district legal counsel prior to any disclosure.

Safe Zone Access Controls

No third party may access nonpublic school areas without administrator approval. Access that would disrupt the learning environment shall be denied unless required by valid judicial warrant or court order. All immigration enforcement access requests must be escalated to the Superintendent's Office.

Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Response

The district recognizes that enforcement-related fear and family disruption create trauma that interferes with learning. Schools shall activate counseling and student support responses when students are impacted.

Multilingual and Culturally Competent Communication

Consistent with the multilingual learner policy, schools shall provide language accessible communication and interpreter support where practicable in matters arising under this policy.

Bullying and Harassment

Harassment based on immigration status, nationality, ethnicity, or language is prohibited and addressed under district discipline and anti harassment policies.

Training and Compliance

Annual staff training shall be required on student privacy, enforcement response protocol, trauma-informed practice, and culturally competent family communication. The Superintendent shall report on implementation.

Vendors and Partners

Contracted providers operating on district property must comply with this policy.

Cross References (to GCPS existing policies, procedures, & frameworks)

BAAE Educational Equity
IDDG Multilingual Learners
Student Records and FERPA Policies
Student Enrollment Requirements
Student Safety and Wellbeing Frameworks
Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policies
MTSS and Student Support Frameworks

The Superintendent is authorized to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.