

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 8, 2017



## **Riverside Unified School District Adopts “Safe Learning Zone” Resolution**

RIVERSIDE – On Monday, February 6, 2017, the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) adopted a resolution establishing the District as a "safe learning zone for all students, families, and staff."

The resolution, pursuant to Education Code Section 200, maintains that it is the policy of California to afford all individuals in public schools, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic, equal rights, access, and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state.

According to Education Code Section 201, California’s public schools have an obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias, and a responsibility to provide equal educational opportunity.

RUSD Board Member, Dr. Angelov Farooq, who introduced the resolution, stated that the "unanimous passage of this resolution reflects the unity in the District leadership's values. Our primary commitment is always to our students and all of them deserve the opportunity to learn in an environment free of fear or sense of threat."

District officials say that RUSD will not use school resources to detect or assist in the apprehension of individuals solely on the basis of their immigration status, nor will they release any information about a student or family's immigration status to Immigration and Customs Enforcement unless compelled to do so by court order. The District also prohibits school employees, contractors and volunteers from inquiring about a student's immigration status and from requiring students or parents to produce documents pertaining to that status.

The resolution also acknowledges the value of the federal government’s existing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy that provides support for “Dreamers” (individuals who came to the U.S. before age 16).

### **About Riverside Unified School District:**

[Riverside Unified School District](#) is the 15th largest school district in California, serving nearly 42,000 students in 48 schools in Riverside, California. The district serves a large portion of the City of Riverside as well as unincorporated areas of Highgrove and Woodcrest in Riverside County. The district is governed by a publicly elected Board of Education consisting of five members who serve five different trustee areas. The District is led by Superintendent Dr. David Hansen.

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