

**Resolution Establishing Cape Elizabeth Schools as a Safe Haven for Students and Families of Every Race, Religion, Nationality, Gender, Ethnicity or Sexual Orientation**

WHEREAS, we are alarmed by the recent escalation of hateful rhetoric against Muslims, those perceived to be Muslims, immigrants, people of color and other religious minorities; and

WHEREAS, hate speech and discriminatory acts of any kind are unacceptable in our school community as they significantly impact students' psychological well-being and ability to thrive in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, members of the Cape Elizabeth school community embrace our responsibility to directly address incidents of discrimination, intolerance, violence or hate; and

WHEREAS, we wish to honor the rich contributions made by students and parents of every race, religion, ethnicity, gender, nationality or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, we commit to creating an atmosphere of respectful listening and dialogue across social and political divides, and reject actions that stifle even unpopular points of view; and

WHEREAS, all students have the right to be educated in an environment that is free from fear, and fears may be particularly acute for students and families impacted by federal immigration enforcement activities such as arrest, detention, surveillance and demands for information; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court established in Plyer v. Doe (1982) that children have a right to access a free public education regardless of immigration status;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the School Board of Cape Elizabeth:

1. Welcomes students and families of all cultures and faiths, celebrates the benefits of a pluralistic society, and defends the right of every person to live and practice their identity, culture and faith without fear.
2. Will take action to address incidents of hate, violence or discrimination directed toward students or families targeted for their religion, ethnicity, race, nationality, gender, immigration status or sexual orientation.
3. Affirms that any student or family member targeted for their nationality, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status or sexual orientation should be able to turn to school officials for protection without fear of retribution.
4. Commits to creating a school environment that values respect for all religions and cultures and actively addresses all forms of bullying and discrimination.
5. Embraces the responsibility of schools to educate students about the social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity of the United States, and to teach students to think critically about their own biases.
6. Commits to setting an educational curriculum that reflects the values of tolerance, diversity and inclusion.
7. Stipulates that Cape Elizabeth school employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives will not disclose information to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers about parents' or students' immigration status unless compelled to do so by a valid court order.
8. Declares Cape Elizabeth Schools a safe haven, thus barring the use of school resources for the detection or apprehension of students or families whose only violation of law may be their status as an undocumented resident of the United States.