



BOARD POLICY NO.: 2018.043

Safe Schools for Immigrants Policy

It is the policy of Great Valley Academy (“GVA”) to provide all students with equal rights and opportunities to an education, regardless of specified characteristics, including on the basis of immigration status. A student or family’s immigration status will not be used at GVA as a basis to deny students access or opportunity to an equal education.

School personnel must not allow any third party access to a school site without permission of the site administrator. The site administrator shall not permit third party access to the school site that would cause disruption to the learning environment.

The School Board, in Resolution No. 2018.042, based on its educational experience and as part of its deliberative process as our governing body, has found that access to a school site by immigration law enforcement agents substantially disrupts the learning environment and any such request for access should be referred to the Chief Executive Officer’s Office immediately. Further, the Chief Executive Officer will timely report to the School Board any law enforcement request for student information or for school site access for immigration enforcement.

School personnel must contact the Chief Executive Officer’s Office immediately if approached by immigration law enforcement agents. School personnel must also attempt to contact the parents or guardians of any students involved.

GVA adheres to all state and federal laws for student protection, including Assembly Bill 699. On that basis, GVA proposes the following student procedures:

PROCEDURE

COLLECTION OF PRIVATE INFORMATION:

GVA will not collect or request information or documents regarding the citizenship or immigration status of students or their family members unless required by law, such as for student work permits or the federal school lunch program.

DETAINED AND DEPORTED PARENTS:

GVA will not contact Child Protective Services (“CPS”) to assist students whose parents have been detained on immigration charges or deported until it has exhausted all other avenues to ensure their care. GVA will pursue all contacts on the child's emergency card or any other instructions provided by a parent or guardian prior to contacting CPS. The intent of this provision is to avoid the unnecessary placement of children in foster care.

STUDENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT:

GVA will provide "Know Your Rights" information to parents. For example, students have the right to a free public education regardless of immigration status, and GVA will advise parents of this right. This information and notification will be provided in the School's annual notices to parents, or by other cost-effective means.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT EDUCATION

According to a Legislative analysis, there have been hundreds of reported incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation across the country based on student immigration status. To combat this, GVA will educate students about the negative impacts of bullying based on a student's actual or perceived immigration status or their religious beliefs or customs. GVA will continue to enforce its policies prohibiting discrimination and will also review its procedures for reporting and addressing such incidents, to make sure every effort is made to protect potentially affected students.

Date Approved:



Signature, President or Secretary

Board Action: *Motion: Ms. Barton 209: Mr. Payne*
AYES: *wolf, Jamison, Payne, Barton, Gianelli, NISAN*
NAYS: *NONE*
ABSENT: *Tosh, Meraz*
ABSTAIN: *None*

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