



December 5, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As a school district, we maintain our commitment to remaining nonpartisan on politics. However, knowing that our primary responsibility is to take care of our children, we want to respond to the surge of fear and anxiety many are currently experiencing in the wake of the presidential election. First, we want our community to know that schools and classrooms are safe and inclusive places for all students and all families. To ensure that the Roaring Fork Schools continue to be safe, inclusive, supportive, and positive environments for all students and their families, we commit to the following:

- All students have a legal right to an education, regardless of any differences, including immigration status. We will continue to advocate for all of our students, and embrace all students as full members of our school community.
- Our schools will remain safe and supportive spaces for students and community members, free from the threat of intimidation, hostility, or violence, including threat of deportation.
- We do not collaborate with immigration enforcement agencies or share information that could put a student's security at risk.
- We will continue to listen to the needs of all of our students and families by hosting meetings and engaging in conversations so that we can learn from those who are impacted before we assume what actions to take.
- We will continue to teach tolerance and inclusion in our schools, set clear and high expectations for how we treat one another, and encourage our educators to address issues around race, discrimination and other challenges with students.
- We will not base our decisions on speculation or rumor about what may or may not happen.
- We will continue to create a sense of belonging for all -- building a larger circle of "we" and a broader understanding of our commonalities and differences.
- We will act where we have influence and make a difference wherever we can.

A resolution with these commitments will go before the Board of Education for approval next Wednesday, December 7.

Second, while we do not yet know what will happen in the years to come, we do have information for many of the frequently asked questions that we are hearing from students, families, and community members. Please see the Immigration and Discrimination FAQs sheet. We will continue to share information and resources in the months to come. If you want to explore additional resources for immigrant students at your school, please talk to your high school counselors or contact Dave Smith, PreCollegiate Director, at [dsmith@rfschools.com](mailto:dsmith@rfschools.com).

Sincerely,

Rob Stein,  
Superintendent

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## Immigration and Discrimination FAQs

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

**A:** None! Children have a constitutional right to have equal access to education regardless of their immigration status or their parents' status. That right cannot be taken away by the president or the state or federal legislatures.

**Q: Does Roaring Fork Schools ask for a child's immigration status when he or she enrolls?**

**A:** No. Public school districts 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 share our students' immigration status with the federal immigration officials?**

**A:** No. As mentioned above, we do not ask for students' immigration status when they enroll. However, if we became aware of a student's lack of immigration status, we would not share that information with federal officials, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**Q: What does Roaring Fork Schools do to ensure that no student or family is discriminated against or harassed because of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or national origin?**

**A:** The Roaring Fork Schools believes deeply in ensuring equity – it is one of our core values. We have policies in place that mandate no discrimination or harassment for our students, families or employees on the base of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and many other protected classes.

**Q: What should I do if my child feels like he/she has been the victim of discrimination or harassment?**

**A:** Please report the behavior immediately to a teacher, school leader (principal or assistant principal), or the superintendent's office. We take these complaints very seriously in order to assure that our schools continue to be safe spaces.

**Q: What immediate impact will the election have on me or my family if we do not have lawful immigration status?**

**A:** There will be no changes to the immigration laws before the incoming president takes office in January 2017. And even then, the immigration laws are passed by the legislature and there is no way to know with certainty if the legislature will make any changes to the immigration laws.

**Q: What if I am a DACA recipient?**

**A:** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is based on an order by the president. The new president could choose to rescind that order. If you are a recipient of DACA, consider reaching out to an immigration attorney now in order to determine if you have additional ways to change your immigration status.

**Q: What should I do if I want to understand 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. A list of available resources can be found at [goo.gl/HAKp2n](http://goo.gl/HAKp2n). Also, you can seek an immigration attorney from the American Immigration Lawyers Association at <http://www.ailalawyer.org/>.

*\*These FAQs were created by the Denver Public Schools (DPS) and adapted by the Roaring Fork Schools. We are grateful to DPS for allowing us to share these resources with our families.*

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