



March 21, 2017

Burlington School District
150 Colchester Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Students and Families,

The Burlington School Board is committed to protecting the right of every child in Burlington to attend our schools. We believe that in Burlington every child should be fully included and safe in school, and that every child should have access to high quality education.

The Burlington School Board is committed to equity for all our students. We value all of the students, families, and staff, who together provide a rich diversity of perspectives, experiences, and cultures. We strive to create a climate in our district that honors and respects all students for who they are. We are united in our belief that diversity is an asset to the education of all, and view it as our greatest strength.

With this statement we reaffirm the following District policies and procedures:

- ALL students are welcome in Burlington schools, regardless of immigration status. Our top priority is the education and safety of all our students.
- We do not ask about, collect, store, or share information regarding any student's or family member's immigration status. We will maintain our practice of protecting student information. We adhere to all provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the federal law that protects the privacy of all student records.
- Any requests for access to schools or information from school records by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will be referred to the Superintendent. We will only release information or allow access as is required by law.
- The District will provide information and support for families who have questions regarding their educational rights or legal status through referrals to others in our community who have this expertise; for example, Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, Vermont Legal Aid, the Attorney General's office, and the offices of Vermont's congressional representatives.

We are fortunate that you are part of the Burlington School District. This is your right, and having you here enriches the city of Burlington and our school community. We welcome you with open arms.

- The Burlington Board of School Commissioners

