

Lemon Grove School District

8025 Lincoln Street, Lemon Grove, CA 91945 Phone: 619-825-5600 Fax: 619-303-8573

September 8, 2017

DACA Letter

Dear Lemon Grove Parents, Partners, and Stakeholders,

On February 14, 2017, the Lemon Grove Board of Education passed a resolution that included a call on President Trump to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (commonly known as DACA) program and to clearly articulate the rights of all students to attend school without the fear of detention and deportation.

Many of you know of the federal program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA). The policy has allowed eligible undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children to receive protection from deportation, an ability to travel internationally, and the potential to obtain a work permit that must be renewed every two years.

The United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Trump's decision to rescind DACA, requesting the Department of Homeland Security to begin to "wind down" the policy. His action means that the members of the Lemon Grove community who hold DACA status could soon lose the rights described above, and so face difficulties and uncertainty about their futures in the U.S.

Our heart goes out to these individuals and their families.

Lemon Grove is an ethnically diverse city; 24 different home languages are spoken in the Lemon Grove School District schools, including Spanish, Somali, Arabic, Tagalog, Chinese, and Vietnamese; 61 percent of students in Lemon Grove are of Hispanic or Latino descent and more than 74 percent of students qualify for free and reduced price lunch. The District's mission is to maximize achievement for every student, advance technical skills required for higher education and 21st Century careers, and prepare students to compete in a global society.

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The United States of America was built by diverse peoples, both native and immigrant alike and education has played a critical role in furthering tolerance and strengthening our republic. The Board of Education of the Lemon Grove School District values our multicultural and multilingual community. We are committed to fostering an environment that will encourage students, families, staff, and community partners to explore student and individual rights; the history of civics and coalition building; the struggle to make progress in light of adversity; and empowering and recognizing the importance of student leadership and activism.

As your superintendent, I will work collaboratively with all community partners who share our commitment to safe and open school communities, including but not limited to, the Parent Teacher Association, Lemon Grove Educators, the California School Employees Association, the Lemon Grove Teachers Association, the Lemon Grove Sheriff's Department, the American Civil Liberties Union, and our internal accountability committees like the District English Learner Advisory Committee.

Please know that our Board of Education and I reaffirm our support for every individual embracing education, and that Lemon Grove School District campuses will continue to serve as safe zones and resource centers for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination to the fullest extent provided by the law. For more information, please use the Parent menu on our webpage: http://www.lgsd.k12.ca.us/for_parents/d_a_c_a_information/

Yours in Education,

Dr. Kimberly Berman
Superintendent

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Estimados padres, compañeros e interesados de Lemon Grove,

El 14 de febrero de 2017, la mesa directiva de educación de Lemon Grove aprobó una resolución que incluyó una invocación al Presidente Trump para que continúe el programa Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (comúnmente conocida como DACA) y para expresar con claridad los derechos de todos los alumnos de asistir a la escuela sin el temor de la detención y la deportación.

La póliza de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) ha permitido a los inmigrantes indocumentados elegibles quienes llegaron a los Estados Unidos siendo menores de edad recibir protección de la deportación, tener la capacidad de viajar al extranjero, y el potencial de obtener un permiso para trabajar que se tiene que renovar cada dos años. El fiscal general de los Estados Unidos Jeff Sessions anunció la decisión del presidente Trump de revocar DACA, pidiéndole al departamento de seguridad nacional (“Homeland Security”) empezar a “ponerle fin” a la póliza.

Nuestros corazones están con estos individuos y sus familias.

Lemon Grove es una ciudad étnicamente diversa; 24 idiomas natales distintos se hablan en nuestras escuelas, incluyendo el español, somalí, árabe, tagalo, chino y vietnamita; el 61 por ciento de los alumnos en Lemon Grove son de ascendencia hispana o latina. La mesa directiva de educación de Lemon Grove valora nuestra comunidad multicultural y multilingüe.

Tenga presente que nuestra mesa directiva de educación y yo reafirmamos nuestro apoyo para cada individuo alentando la educación, y que los planteles del distrito escolar de Lemon Grove continuarán sirviendo como zonas seguras y centros de recursos para los alumnos y las familias amenazadas por la aplicación de inmigración o la discriminación a la mayor medida posible que establece la ley. Para más información, favor de utilizar el menú “Parent” en nuestra página de internet. Se presentará un foro de DACA para nuestra comunidad el miércoles, 13 de

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septiembre a las 5:30 en la biblioteca de Lemon Grove.

A su servicio en educación,

Dra. Kimberly Berman

Superintendente