**Reclaiming the Promise of the American DREAM for ALL**

***Parents, Students and Educators Working Together to End the Criminalization, Detention and Deportation of Students and Families***

WHEREAS, Public Schools should be safe havens that embrace all students and families,

regardless of citizenship and national origin; and

WHEREAS, in the 1982 case of *Plyler v. Doe,*  the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that undocumented children have a constitutional right to receive a free, public K-12 education, which provides the means to becoming a “self-reliant and self-sufficient participant in society” and instills the “fundamental values necessary to the maintenance of a democratic political system.”

WHEREAS, Name of AFT Local reaffirms its commitment to making public schools welcoming places of learning for all students; and

WHEREAS, Name of AFT Localworking with the School District has the responsibility to protect the educational rights of all children and serve those who comply with laws that mandate compulsory education for all children regardless of their race, color, national origin, citizenship, or immigration status or the status of their parents/guardians. This includes recently arrived children from Central America who are in immigration proceedings seeking asylum in the U.S. and have been reunited with a family member or an adult caregiver; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2014, the Department of Justice and the Department of Education issued an updated set of guidance documents to all public school districts reminding them of their obligation under federal law to provide equal educational opportunities to all children residing in their districts, and to offer assistance to ensure they are complying with the law.

WHEREAS, many children born in the United States are denied their birthright to grow up in a country where they receive a quality public education and have access to nutrition and quality care because they are held in ICE detention centers with their undocumented parents and sometimes get deported with them; and

WHEREAS, the human impact of deportations is incalculable—tearing families apart, interrupting children’s education and school attendance, and disrupting communities and workplaces throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2016, Secretary Jeh Johnson of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced a large-scale series of immigration raids, mostly targeting Central American families who fled extreme violence, organized crime, persecution and human trafficking from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras seeking humanitarian relief in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, these immigration raids triggered widespread fear sending a chilling affect across immigrant communities, keeping children away from schools; and

WHEREAS, increased enforcement measures that generate widespread fear deny children access to public education and institutionalize racial profiling and encourage discrimination. Such actions discourage communities from working with law enforcement agents to report, solve and prevent serious crime; and

WHEREAS, a memo from the Department of Homeland Security identifies several “sensitive locations” including pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities, and other institutions of learning such as vocational or trade schools; and

WHEREAS, ICE policies discourage enforcement actions at schools, hospitals, churches, funerals, mosques or other places of worship and other sensitive locations; and

WHEREAS, President Obama’s has continuously said that his administration would focus on removing criminals rather than families; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate solution to our national immigration crisis is congressional action on comprehensive immigration reform with a realistic pathway to citizenship for all aspiring Americans; and

WHEREAS, immigration is a federal responsibility and a comprehensive national approach to solve our broken immigration system would strengthen the economy of our community and of our country; and

WHEREAS, students, parents, teachers, educators, school support staff and other service providers play a critical role in helping to end the criminalization, detention and deportation of students and families; and

WHEREAS, rather than being punished for their immigration status, students and their families should be recognized for their sacrifice, hard work, determination and contributions that strengthen our school district and our community; and

WHEREAS, we hope to see the day when the children we welcome in the great state of Name of the State will *all* be equally embraced in our society and our community, so that the lessons we teach in our classrooms about equality, inclusion and tolerance are reflected in the laws that govern our country and in the way we treat one another; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Name of AFT Local affirms its commitment to work with the school district,educators, school support staff, students and parents to support the rights, dignity, respect and education of *All* students and their families; and

RESOLVED, Name of AFT Local will work with community partners to call attention to the increased enforcement efforts by USCIS around sensitive locations and calls for due process that provides all children with adequate protections and legal services including a legal advocate who can provide children and families with guidance through the legal process.

RESOLVED, Name of AFT Localcondemns the ICE Raids targeting our students and families and calls foran immediate end to the ICE Raids that are having a chilling effects throughout our schools, communities and our State; and

RESOLVED, Name of AFT Localcalls for the immediate release of children picked-up by recent ICE Raids and demands that ICE grants them prosecutorial discretion