

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
AFFIRMING THE RIGHT OF ALL STUDENTS TO A PUBLIC EDUCATION
REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS**

RESOLUTION NO. 69-24/25

WHEREAS, the evolving landscape of immigration and education policies under the current administration of the U.S. federal government has created significant uncertainty, raising concerns about the potential impact on students and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) and its three colleges—Moreno Valley College, Norco College, and Riverside City College—are federally recognized as Minority-Serving Institutions and Hispanic-Serving Institutions, with over 60% of students identifying as Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, census data from the Migration Policy Institute estimates that nearly 6% of Riverside County’s 2.4 million residents are undocumented immigrants, with more than 75% identifying as Hispanic, underscoring the intersection of immigration status, racial and ethnic disparities; and

WHEREAS, the District not only serves a large Hispanic student population but also deeply respects and values Hispanic culture, traditions, and contributions, recognizing their profound impact on the social, economic, and educational fabric of the community; and

WHEREAS, RCCD remains steadfast in its mission to provide equitable access to post-secondary education for all students who seek to better their lives through learning; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), unequivocally affirmed that a student’s citizenship or immigration status, as well as that of their parents or guardians, cannot be used as grounds to deny access to public education; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has enacted several statewide laws as a deliberate declaration that California recognizes and values the contributions of members of our communities, regardless of immigration status including:

- RCCD, as a publicly funded institution within California’s higher education system, is governed by state laws that protect all residents’ rights to higher education, including the Equity in Higher Education Act (Cal. Educ. Code §§ 66270 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in postsecondary institutions; and

- Assembly Bill 540 (Cal. Educ. Code § 68130.5) and the California Dream Act allow eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition and access state financial aid, ensuring greater educational opportunities regardless of immigration status; and
- Senate Bill 54, The California Values Act (Cal. Gov. Code §§ 7282 et seq.), affirms the state's commitment to protecting immigrant communities by limiting cooperation between state agencies, including public educational institutions, and federal immigration enforcement, thereby fostering a safer learning environment for all students; and
- Assembly Bill 21 (Cal. Educ. Code §§ 66093 et seq.) mandates that California's public postsecondary institutions take action to safeguard undocumented students, faculty, and classified professionals from immigration enforcement activities on campuses, thereby promoting a safe and inclusive educational environment for all members of the academic community;"

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has an established history of taking steps to support undocumented students in Riverside County, including:

- Adopting a resolution in 2017, affirming that all students have the opportunity to receive an education in the community college system, regardless of immigration status or any other protected status, and declared that the District and its colleges shall not cooperate with any efforts to create a registry of individuals based on protected characteristics such as religion, national origin, race, or sexual orientation (Resolution No. 38-16/17);
- Adopting a resolution in 2017 in support of undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children (“Dreamers”) and/or participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, advocating for a federal legislative solution to allow Dreamers to remain in the country (Resolution No. 04-17/18); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to fostering an accessible and safe learning environment for all students, regardless of their immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RCCD and its colleges—Moreno Valley College, Norco College, and Riverside City College—will continue to uphold and implement policies that protect the rights and privacy of undocumented students, in accordance with state and federal laws, including but not limited to the California Values Act, the Equity in Higher Education Act, and Assembly Bill 540; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RCCD will actively support and expand resources for undocumented students, including access to financial aid, academic counseling, legal assistance, and mental health services, to ensure their success and well-being in higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RCCD calls upon state and federal policymakers to enact and uphold legislation that strengthens protections for undocumented students, including a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers and recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RCCD will continue to work in partnership with community organizations, advocacy groups, and legal service providers to raise awareness and provide support for undocumented students and their families; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that RCCD reaffirms its dedication to equity and access in higher education by ensuring that all students, regardless of background or status, have the opportunity to achieve their academic and career goals in a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of February of 2025 at the regular meeting of the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.

Jose Alcala, President, Board of Trustees
Riverside Community College District