



**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

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