



September 6, 2017

Dear Pendergast Colleagues,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share information about the recent decision by President Trump to eliminate DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). I along with superintendents from Arizona districts shared their thoughts and feelings about the impact of this action through a mutually agreed upon letter.

I have taken the liberty to use excerpts from this letter to let you know how our district will handle this action now and in the future. We will continue to protect our students, staff and families and help them in any way we possibly can. We will hope Congress will come up with solutions that will consider the benefits and consequences of this action on our schools, communities and lives.

“Arizona is home to approximately 200 school districts – all very unique. We vary in size, grade levels served, and demographics. We vary in mission and vision. We even vary in initiatives and programs. Despite our differences, however, we all share the same values: love, commitment, respect, community, prosperity for all. We believe in our students. We believe in their limitless potential. We believe in their hopes, dreams, and aspirations, and we are committed to doing all we can to make them a reality. We also believe in taking a stand on behalf of our students and their families during times of great need. We believe that this is one of those times.

The elimination of DACA will not only have a dramatic economic impact to our respective counties, Arizona, and our country, it will also have a significant impact on our school communities. Many of our employees are DACA recipients – from teachers to technology specialists. We will have classrooms that need long-term substitutes, cafeterias that need cooks, sports teams that need coaches, and counseling centers that need counselors. With school systems that are already deprived of people and resources, this brings us great concern. But to us, as public district superintendents, this is much more than an economic or educational issue. This is personal. Today, although we serve different districts, we stand together as one community. We stand together with our students, staff, and families.”

Our Governing Board is supportive of all students, staff, families and community members regardless of their immigration status. We are here to live our mission of “Empowering Excellence and Success” for all, and to ensure our community is safe and fully informed at all times. We deeply appreciate all you do everyday in your position as a “Beeliever” in PESD and know you will continue to serve and support to the best of your abilities.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast Superintendent