

**ORANGECOUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: January 12, 2015

AGENDA ITEM No. 15-01-09

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: Equal Access for Immigrant Children Resolution

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. Jake Henry **PHONE:** 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Equal Access for Immigrant Children Resolution

PURPOSE: To provide the Board of Education a resolution for adoption regarding equal access to education for immigrant children.

BACKGROUND: At the December 8th, 2014 Board of Education meeting, members reviewed a resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Orange County Board of Commissioners on December 1, 2014. Board of Education members discussed the resolution and requested administration draft a resolution for Board consideration. The draft resolution is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the Resolution regarding equal access to education for immigrant children.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL ACCESS FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools is a compassionate and caring school district that is committed to creating a welcoming atmosphere that values equality and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the number of unaccompanied children and minors from Central American nations seeking refuge in the United States has dramatically risen over the last three years; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the children seeking refuge in the United States are fleeing extreme violence and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the children entering the United States are returning to parents or other family members who are present in the United States, including those children coming to North Carolina;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Orange County Board of Education hereby:

- Affirms that Orange County is a welcoming community to children seeking refuge from violence in their home countries and to the sponsors of these children;
- Affirms the rights of children to attend public schools in the county they reside, without regard to their immigration status; and
- Encourages continuing collaboration between Orange County Schools and other local governmental entities and advocacy organizations to support and protect these children.

Adopted this the 12th day of January, 2015.

Chair
Orange County Board of Education

Interim Superintendent
Orange County Board of Education

