



## Hamtramck Public Schools

James Larson-Shidler, Interim Superintendent  
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### GENERAL MESSAGE REGARDING IMMIGRATION

January 24, 2025

Dear Families and Staff,

In recent weeks, the topic of immigration has been at the forefront of national discussion, fueled by the latest election and the subsequent executive orders issued by the new federal administration. These developments include calls for heightened immigration enforcement, which have understandably raised questions and concerns within our community.

We want to take this opportunity to reaffirm some important facts about public education and your rights. The United States Supreme Court, in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), established that no public school district can deny children access to education based on their immigration status. This means that every child, regardless of their or their parents' immigration status, has the right to a public education.

Additionally, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA ensures that personally identifiable information about students cannot be shared without parental consent, except in limited circumstances, such as compliance with a judicial order. This federal law overrides any conflicting state requirements and prohibits schools from disclosing student records to immigration or law enforcement agencies without proper authorization.

We understand that the ongoing conversations around immigration may cause anxiety or uncertainty for some members of our community. Please know that our district is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environment for every

student. Attached, you will find resources and guidance to help protect student rights and privacy, as well as additional information about relevant laws and available support services.

As always, our focus remains on fostering an environment where all students can learn, thrive, and achieve their full potential. We thank you for your continued partnership as we navigate these challenging times together.

Better Together,



Jim Larson-Shidler,  
Interim Superintendent

Attachments