

March 10, 2017

Dear Students and Families,

At La Conner SD, we work hard to ensure that our schools are inviting, respectful, and a safe learning environment for all. We want all students and their families to know that they are valued members of our school and our diverse learning community.

In light of recent concerns about citizenship status among some families in our community, I want to share some facts that support us in our commitment to providing access to education in a safe, caring school community.

- All children are entitled to a free public K-12 education, regardless of their citizenship. LCSD does not ask or know about the citizenship of our students.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act protects each child's education record. This means that the district cannot share the information with third parties.
- LCSD students are not questioned without legal cause and without the awareness of their parents. Law enforcement officers must show credentials and provide a purpose for their presence.
- Education leaders, teachers, students, and families have asked for guidance around the rights listed above. Detailed information for Department for Homeland Security is available on their website: <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/sensitive-locations-faqs>. In general, this document explains that immigration enforcement actions may not occur at or in "sensitive locations, which include:
 - Schools, including preschools and early learning programs;
 - School bus stops
 - Medical treatment and healthcare facilities
 - Places of worship
 - Religious or civil ceremonies or observances
 - During public demonstrations

How LCSD staff can help: Our dedicated teachers, counselors and support staff will help reassure students about their concerns. If your child is experiencing any stress or anxiety, please call the school. We truly want our students to come to school knowing that they are safe.

LCSD MISSION AND VISION: Our Common Work and Aspirations

The La Conner School District prepares students with the knowledge and attitudes to be life-long learners and active members of the local and global community. To realize this goal, as one community, we create conditions that provide:

- access to excellence in education,
- a respectful, safe, and inclusive learning environment for everyone
- an open door for every learner, family, and community partners,
- personalized learning opportunities,
- opportunities to engage in and develop civic responsibility, and take ownership for their own learning, and
- knowledge, skills, and technologies for further learning and success in an ever-changing world.

Sincerely,



Peg Seeling, Superintendent

