

The California Department of Education
Back-to-School Festival:

BEYOND SAFE HAVENS

Superintendent Tom Torlakson and the California Department of Education invite you to an interactive event moving California forward to ensure safe school communities for all.

SEPT 22

9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

To access live webcast, visit: <http://cde-ca.videoss.com/>
Contact Irene Garcia for information: igarcia@cde.ca.gov



CDE 2017 Back-to-School Festival:

Beyond Safe Havens Conference

September 22, 2017 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Today's politically perilous environment makes it especially important to maintain welcoming and supportive schools that provide a Safe Haven to all California students and their families, including the 300,000 undocumented students and 1 million with an undocumented parent.

Besides creating a safe environment, educators need to make sure that students who could be harmed by deportation, either themselves or by having a parent or other family member deported, continue to thrive and succeed. The California Department of Education (CDE) will focus on this task on Friday, September 22, by hosting the "Beyond Safe Havens" conference. This work furthers an important priority of California's landmark Local Control Funding Formula: School Climate.

The conference, at CDE headquarters, will bring together educators, experts, and CDE staff to discuss how schools can build and maintain a positive school climate for all students, regardless of immigration status. The conference will cover the support vulnerable students need at all levels, from the state and the district to the classroom, and help spread best practices.

The event is part of CDE's 2017 Back-to-School Fall Festival featuring professional learning sessions for CDE's 1,400 headquarter employees. Sessions will cover a variety of topics, such as identifying examples of continuous improvement, fostering closer labor-management relationships, and ways CDE is changing to better meet the needs of California's 6.2 million students, with an emphasis on the realignment of branches and establishing four new department action teams.

"Beyond Safe Havens" builds on State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's campaign to encourage districts to declare themselves "Safe Havens." This action, taken to date by at least 113 districts representing 2.7 million students, signals to the broader community that all students are welcome, while also providing reassuring information regarding how immigration laws protect school immigration records from the federal government.

Torlakson's Safe Havens campaign has met with widespread support. In April, the Public Policy Institute of California conducted a statewide poll finding that 74 percent of all parents in public schools and 64 percent of adults supported the idea of schools being Safe Havens.

"Beyond Safe Havens" seeks to equip educators with the information and resources they need to continue to support the students and parents who are worried, anxious, and fearful as a result of current federal immigration policies. It will consist of both interactive panel discussions and hands-on workshops. Events will include: A keynote panel with elected officials, practitioners, and stakeholders will occur from 9:15 – 10:30 am; participatory workshops from 10:45 am – 12:00 pm; and interactive exhibits and displays from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. All activities will take place at the California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

To RSVP and for more information, please contact: Irene Garcia, Superintendent's Initiatives Office, California Department of Education, 916-319-0617, igarcia@cde.ca.gov.