

January 26, 2025

**Dear Linden Families,**

At Linden Public Schools, our commitment is to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and protected. In challenging times, this commitment becomes even more vital. Recent discussions about potential federal policies targeting immigrant families have raised significant concerns nationwide. On behalf of the Linden Board of Education, we want to reaffirm our stance: Linden Public Schools will always be a haven for every student, regardless of their background or immigration status.

Linden's strength lies in the diversity and contributions of every community member. By law, every child has the right to a public education, and we uphold this fundamental principle. Immigration status will never determine a student's access within our district. If the national dialogue around immigration enforcement brings uncertainty or fear, we are here to help. Our school counselors, teachers, administrators, and Welcome Center staff are ready to provide support.

To ensure we are fully prepared to meet the needs of our students and families, I have established a proactive committee with the Director of our Multi-Language Learners Department dedicated to addressing the potential impacts of federal immigration policies. Our goal is to protect the stability and well-being of our students while creating a comprehensive plan to address these challenges with care and compassion. We assess our community's challenges and concerns and develop protocols to provide students and families with social, emotional, academic, and logistical support. We also coordinate with City Officials, the New Jersey Department of Education, and education experts to offer resources and guidance.

We encourage you to contact your child's school office or our Welcome Center's Department if you need assistance. We also invite our community partners, local organizations, and all who share our values to join us in standing united for the dignity and rights of every family. Together, we can ensure Linden Public Schools remains a district that promotes equity, compassion, and inclusion.

Take care,

Atiya Y. Perkins

Superintendent of Schools
Linden Public Schools