

## POSITION STATEMENT

### IN SUPPORT OF THE ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (APS) POLICY ON IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

JUNE 2006

The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition supports the Albuquerque Public Schools proposed policy providing that APS employees will not investigate students' immigration status and citizenship status not be used to deny students admission to public schools.

The Coalition is very much in favor of the proposed policy that prohibits school officials from contacting or providing information to immigration officials about the immigration status of students or students' parents. The policy would also provide that school employees initially deny immigration agents access to schools and only comply with a request from immigration agents after consulting with APS district lawyers.

As Albuquerque's City Council has declared the city to be "immigrant friendly," it is only appropriate that this draft policy be approved by the full school board on June 21. Protecting the safety and welfare of APS students is paramount, regardless of their immigration status.