NEWS RELEASE
9/10/19

Contact: Tim Robinson, Lead Media Relations Specialist
206-252-0203 | 206-465-5404 c
tirobinson@seattleschools.org

Seattle Public Schools Protects All Students

District Updates Procedure Focused on Relations with ICE, etc.

SEATTLE – Seattle Public Schools has reaffirmed and strengthened its commitment to providing the maximum legal protection to immigrant students being sought by immigration officials at school.

Superintendent Procedure 4310SP was revised and adopted just prior to the start of this new school year.

The process of revising the procedure, titled “Relations with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Agencies, and the County Health Department,” was overseen by SPS Superintendent Denise Juneau.

“It is our great responsibility to provide an excellent education to all our students, and not one of them should have to worry about anything but doing their best in class,” said the Superintendent. “We have all seen the increased targeting of immigrant populations, and so much of that is not fair. This procedure makes it clear that Seattle Public Schools is not open to ICE targeting our students.”

The new procedure, which builds on previous policy focused on protecting immigrant students, includes support of the policy of the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement that schools are sensitive locations where immigration enforcement actions should not occur.

The key change is that the new SPS procedure spells out more specific warrant requirements that must be met before an immigration official can be granted access to a school.

Previously, the district procedure did not specify that the warrant must be issued by a judge. The updated procedure includes:
• A warrant must first be reviewed by district legal counsel and it must:
  o be signed by a judge;
  o identify the agency with the authority to search;
  o correctly identify the search location(s);
  o be dated correctly and not be beyond the warrant expiration;
  o reference a specific person and, if it does, the district will allow ICE to contact or question that person only.

“It is because of all the recent publicized cases throughout the U.S. regarding the practices of immigration officials that the district believed it was necessary to revise our language to strengthen the protections for our students,” said SPS Senior Assistant General Counsel Ronald Boy, who helped revise the procedure.

# # #