

# RESOLUTION



**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools believes that all children deserve the opportunity to learn, and to reach their full potential to become successful and contributing members of society, and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, in June 1982, the Supreme Court issued Plyler v. Doe, a landmark decision holding that states cannot constitutionally deny students a free public education as a result of their immigration status, and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, an Executive Order established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which provides deferment from deportation and access to certain rights, like getting a driver's license, getting a social security card, and the ability to attend college, for those who have self-identified and were brought to the US illegally by their parents, and

**WHEREAS**, since 2012 DACA has helped 7,061 students in South Carolina advance their educations, increase their social and economic impact and more fully establish themselves as integral members of society, thereby strengthening our community, our state and our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the South Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that barred DACA immigrants from receiving state professional and vocational licenses for more than 40 occupations, including cosmetology, welding, nursing and others that students can pursue in Greenville County Schools, and

**WHEREAS**, South Carolina's new education accountability standards measure all our students' success in obtaining licensure credentialing, and

**WHEREAS**, many of our neighboring states allow DACA recipients to be licensed, benefiting from the educational investment our citizens have made in these students and increasing the economic viability and prosperity for their businesses and communities, and

**WHEREAS**, our State faces a critical workforce shortage, and all agree that we must examine ways to expand our workforce if we are going to continue to enjoy the economic prosperity and quality of life all of our citizens demand and deserve, and

**WHEREAS**, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and many Upstate businesses have identified licensing reform as an important legislative issue for 2018;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the members of the Board of Trustees of Greenville County Schools call on the South Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation that removes state licensing barriers from students who are legally residing in South Carolina as DACA immigrants.

FEBRUARY 27, 2018