

1/18/25

Dear Ashley Elementary Families,

I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate these challenging times, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the uncertainty and fear many of you may be feeling due to the shifting political landscape and immigration enforcement actions. It is completely understandable to feel a sense of concern, and I want you to know that, as your principal, I stand with you and will always prioritize the well-being and safety of all of our students and families.

At Ashley Elementary, we firmly believe that every student deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued within our school community. It is our responsibility to ensure that our school remains a welcoming environment where all children—regardless of their background—can learn and grow without fear. We are committed to creating a space that is not only physically safe but also emotionally supportive, where each student knows they are cared for and respected.

The right to a free public education is constitutionally protected for all students, regardless of immigration status. Our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for every student has not changed. No matter the circumstances outside our doors, we will continue to provide a space where every child feels valued and cared for.

To help families navigate this challenging time, DPS has provided a Family Resource Toolkit in English and Spanish. This toolkit includes:

- Information about your rights and current DPS policies.
- Guidance on updating emergency contact information.
- Community and mental health resources to support families.

We strongly encourage all families to <u>update their emergency contact information</u> (<u>Spanish version</u>). Each student should have at least two emergency contacts who can be trusted to pick up your child if needed. These individuals can include family members or any trusted adults. If you need assistance with this please come to our office, Joyce and Maria would be happy to help!

If you or your child ever need additional support, please know that we are here for you. Whether it's through our counseling services, community outreach, or simply listening to your concerns, we are a team, and we are stronger together.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. I am honored to be part of this amazing community, and together, we will continue to ensure that Ashley Elementary remains a place where all students can thrive—today, tomorrow, and always.

With warm regards and in solidarity, Janet Estrada

Principal

Ashley Elementary