

Glassboro Public Schools

560 Joseph Bowe Boulevard
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

www.glassboroschools.us

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Danielle M. Sochor
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Walter S. Pudelko III, CPA
Business Administrator

Mark J. Silverstein, MBA, Ed.D Superintendent of Schools

April 23, 2014

American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
PO Box 32159
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Mr. Shalom:

In response to your letter dated April 1, 2014 regarding the requirement of photo identification from the adult seeking to register a child for school we have removed the specific line item from our registration website and paperwork titled "Parent/guardian Identification".

Our Board Policy regarding pupil registration does not require parents/guardians to provide photo identification upon registration of students however; we will accept a photo id with a Glassboro address as an acceptable proof of residency if voluntarily offered by the parents at the time of registration as noted in the guidelines set forth by the NJDOE which allows "licenses" as a permissible form of documentation to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Silverstein", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Mark J. Silverstein, MBA, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

MacMichael, Mary

From: Silverstein, Mark
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 12:32 PM
To: MacMichael, Mary
Subject: FW: NJ American Civil Liberties Union Response

Attachment under operations on agenda

From: Williams, Erin
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 10:32 AM
To: Silverstein, Mark
Cc: Rettig, Jody
Subject: NJ American Civil Liberties Union Response

Although we do not require or ask that parents/guardians provide our district with photo identification upon registration of students we will accept a photo id as proof of residency if voluntarily offered by the parents at the time of registration.

During the registration process our staff do not question the validity of photo identification provided by parents/guardians. For example we have been presented with identification from Mexico that lists a home address of Glassboro, NJ address as the residence of the parent.

As a precautionary measure we have updated the wording on our website and student registration forms to match the guidelines set forth by the NJDOE which allows "licenses" as a form of documentation to demonstrate a student's eligibility for enrollment in the district. However, we do not specifically request on our website, in any of these updated documents, or our Board Policy regarding Pupils a driver's license or photo ID from the parent or guardian at the time of registration.

Thanks,

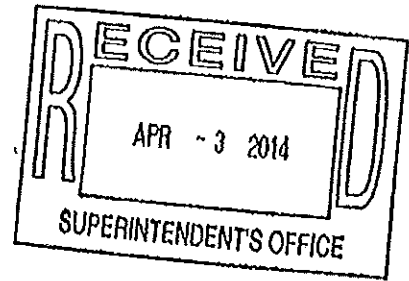
Erin



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April 1, 2014

Superintendent Mark Silverstein
Glassboro Public Schools
560 Joseph Bowe Memorial Boulevard
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Dear Dr. Silverstein:

According to the registration information available on your school district's website (a printout of which is enclosed), your district requires photo identification from the adult seeking to register a child for school. This requirement violates constitutional law, state law and state regulations. The requirement discriminates against immigrant parents, preventing or discouraging them from registering their children to attend public school. Therefore, such requirements must be immediately removed from the district's registration process.

The United States Supreme Court in *Plyler v. Doe*,¹ held that undocumented children living in the United States could not be precluded from public elementary and secondary schools based on immigration status. New Jersey's state law² clearly states that domicile and age are the *only* factors to determine eligibility for a free public education. All children between the ages of five and 20 are eligible to attend public school, regardless of their immigration status. Further, the New Jersey Administrative Code specifically states, "A district board of education shall not condition enrollment on the receipt of information or documents . . . Pertaining to criteria that are not a legitimate basis for determining eligibility to attend school."³

There is good reason for these laws and regulations. As the United States Department of Justice has explained: "For the past three decades, *Plyler* has kept the door to opportunity open for millions of children across America. *Plyler* has stood for the proposition that public schools serve all children in this country, no matter where they were born. *Plyler* has represented the promise that the American dream should be accessible to all."⁴

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey is committed to ensuring that schools throughout New Jersey keep their doors open to all children living in the district. Recently, we discovered a school district with a photo identification policy similar to yours. The district insisted that they had a right to ask for photo identification, even after we pointed out that such a requirement is an impermissible burden on the children of immigrant residents. We sued the district and they ultimately agreed to eliminate the identification requirement, but not before it received a barrage of negative coverage in the

¹ 457 U.S. 202 (1982).

² N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1

³ N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.A(d)

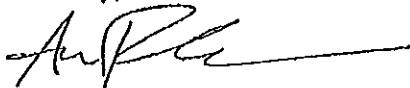
⁴ Remarks of Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez at the American Civil Liberties Union's *Plyler v. Doe* 30th Anniversary Event, Washington, D.C., June 11, 2012, available at: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/opa/pr/speeches/2012/crt-speech-120611.html>

media.⁵ We request written confirmation that the district will no longer require photograph identification for enrollment in its public schools, that a request for this information will not be verbally demanded or appear on any enrollment form and that the relevant staff members have been informed of these requirements. Further, please forward a copy of the form that will be used going forward that is in compliance with the law as set forth above.

While we do not wish to resort to litigation, given the clarity of these laws and the importance of these issues, unless the district changes its policy and practice within the next four weeks, we will consider filing suit.

Feel free to contact me at (973) 854-1714 if you have any questions. I hope you will act promptly to bring this district into compliance. I look forward to a prompt response with regard to this serious issue.

Sincerely,



Alexander Shalom
Senior Staff Attorney
American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey

Encl: Printout from Glassboro Public Schools Website

C: David Hespe, Acting Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Education
Shaheena Simons, Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section, United States Department
Of Justice, Civil Rights Division

⁵ Peggy McGlone, "Facing lawsuit, Butler schools agree to stop discriminating against immigrant parents" *The Star Ledger*, March 11, 2004, available at: http://www.nj.com/education/2014/03/facing_lawsuit_butler_schools_agree_to_stop_discriminating_against_immigrant_parents.html#comments

Registration

Registration Forms

To register your child in Glassboro Public Schools you **MUST** be a resident of the Borough of Glassboro in Gloucester County, NJ. Registration is held at the Board Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am until 4 pm. The Registration Packet can be printed by clicking on the [Registration Forms](#) link above.

Please call 856-652-2700 ext 76411 to schedule an appointment

Children new to the area should register as soon as possible. Students cannot be registered unless parents or guardians can show that they live in the borough, and that the student has met all entrance requirements for his or her grade. All students must be registered by a parent or guardian.

Parents of all students should bring:

- **All immunization records.** These should include MMR: measles, mumps and rubella (German measles); at least four DPT: diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus; three polio, and three Hepatitis B immunizations.
- **Three (3) proofs of township residency.** One must be home deeds, new home agreements of sale or SIGNED rental lease. Additional proofs can be any of the following: utility bills, driver license, voter registrations, financial account information, court orders, or state agency agreements and other evidence of court or agency placements or directives.
- **Parent/guardian identification** in the form of a driver's license or military ID only.
- **Original birth certificate as proof of age.** To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before October 1.
- **Proof of a recent physical examination.** At the time of registration parents will receive a specific district health form to be completed by the child's family physician. This examination must be completed within 365 calendar days of your child entering school.

In addition for transfer students only:

- Report card/standardized tests, if available, from your child's previous school.
- Official state transfer card, if your child is transferring from another NJ district.
- Additional pertinent information or medical records from the previous school attended.