

Council Bluffs Community School District

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Immigrant Students & Families

Q: How does my child's immigration status or my immigration status affect my child's ability to attend school?

A: Under federal law, all children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to a free public education at the primary and secondary levels. Schools cannot deny enrollment or access to educational opportunities based on a child's or parent's immigration status. This right is protected under the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedent (*Plyler v. Doe*, 1982). For more details, visit the [U.S. Department of Education's website](#).

Q. Has the President changed immigration enforcement guidelines for locations such as public schools?

A. On January 20, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security announced a change to its rules for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The new rules remove previous guidelines that had stopped ICE and CBP from doing immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” like schools and churches.

Q: How does the Council Bluffs Community School District (CBCSD) ensure that no student or family is discriminated against or harassed because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin?

A: Under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), CBCSD protects the confidentiality of student educational records, including information related to immigration status. These records are not shared with federal immigration officials for enforcement purposes unless required by a lawful subpoena or court order.

Q: What should I do if I feel like I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment?

A: Individuals who feel like they have been the victim of discrimination or harassment should follow the guidance and procedures established by the CBCSD and should report the incident to a school official.

Q: Can the school district ask about a child's immigration status?

A: No, the district may not question a child about his or her immigration status or

demand to see proof of legal immigration status.

During the school enrollment process, parents must present the following documentation:

- Verification of your child's birth date. Examples include a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport.
- Child's immunization records.
- Proof of residency. Examples include a lease/rental agreement or utility bill.

A child does NOT need a social security number to be enrolled in the CBCSD.

For additional options, please contact our District's Educational Services Center at 712-328-6446.

Q: Could the CBCSD ever share our child's immigration status with the federal immigration officials?

A: No, the CBCSD will not share students' immigration status with federal immigration officials for the purpose of enforcement of the immigration law. Individual students' educational records are protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Q: Will my child lose eligibility to ride the bus to school, for free or reduced-priced lunch, for special education services, for ELL, etc.?

A: No. A child's immigration status has no effect on the child's eligibility to ride the bus to school. Iowa law requires that the CBCSD provide transportation to all resident pupils attending school, with limited exceptions. A child's immigration status similarly has no effect on the child's eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, eligibility for English Language Learning help, or eligibility for special education services.

Q: What will happen to my child if he or she has DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)?

A: The status of the DACA program may change due to executive or judicial action. Families with DACA students are advised to consult with an immigration attorney for the latest updates and to explore additional legal options.

Q: Where can I learn more about my immigration rights or immigration issues?

A: To protect your rights, rely only on advice from licensed attorneys or accredited representatives with verified expertise in immigration law. Avoid relying on unverified sources or unauthorized individuals offering immigration services. You can [search for attorneys licensed in Iowa or find an immigration attorneys through the American Immigration Lawyers Association.](#)