

1. What is the role of schools regarding immigration enforcement?

Public schools do not enforce immigration laws. Our responsibility is to educate all students, regardless of their immigration status, in line with federal and state laws and judicial precedent. Schools are safe spaces for learning and growth.

2. Can Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents come to schools?

ICE agents generally do not come to schools. If ICE does come to a school or district building, they must have a warrant or order signed by an appropriate judicial authority. School District Legal Counsel must be contacted to review and provide direction.

3. What happens if ICE or law enforcement requests student information?

“Directory information,” is public information that includes names and schools attended unless parents opt out of this disclosure. For any additional information, law enforcement must present a warrant, court order, or subpoena. These requests should be forwarded to the School District Legal Counsel for handling and ensuring families are notified as required.

4. Are undocumented students allowed to attend public schools?

Yes. Under the Supreme Court’s *Plyler v. Doe* decision, all children, including undocumented students, have the right to attend public schools. Schools cannot deny admission based on immigration status, ask for documents that could reveal immigration status, or engage in actions that would discourage attendance.

5. What should educators do if law enforcement arrives to speak with a student?

If law enforcement, including ICE, comes to a school to question a student, the principal will follow District Policies 519. This includes limiting access to the student during school hours, contacting parents or guardians, and consulting with the General Counsel. The goal is to protect the student’s rights and ensure proper legal procedures are followed.

ICE may contact a school if a parent or guardian has been detained to ensure the student has support and services. Alert your principal immediately, and they will make sure to contact the School District Legal Counsel.

6. How can educators support students and families impacted by immigration issues?

- Create a welcoming environment: Avoid actions that might make students or families feel unwelcome.
- Share resources: Inform families about district-hosted events and available community resources.
- Encourage preparation: Help families update emergency contacts. The Home-School Liaisons have information for parents on how to prepare guardianship documents if separations occur.
- Be alert: Address bullying or discrimination based on national origin and report incidents according to school policies.

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7. What support is available for students facing immigration-related challenges?

In keeping with our standard practices, the district offers:

- Mental health support for students.
- Resources from community agencies.
- Safe spaces for students to share concerns.

8. What are the key terms I should understand?

Refugee

- Status: Refugees are granted legal protection after fleeing violence, war, or persecution.
- Rights: Refugees receive protections under U.S. and international law. They can apply for lawful permanent residency and citizenship.
- Temporary Protection: Refugees may return to their home country if conditions improve, but they are generally protected from deportation in the U.S.

Asylum Seeker

- Status: Asylum seekers are individuals who apply for protection at a U.S. border or after entering the country but are waiting for their claims to be legally approved.
- Rights: Asylum seekers are not guaranteed refugee status and must meet legal criteria to gain protection. They have limited rights while their application is pending.

Immigrant

- Status: Immigrants are individuals who move to a new country permanently through a legal process. Many become lawful permanent residents (green card holders) and, eventually, citizens.
- Rights: Immigrants have legal protections under U.S. law and can return to their home country at any time.

Migrant

- Status: Migrants are people who move within or across borders, often for economic reasons, without the same legal protections as refugees or immigrants.
- Rights: Migrants do not have specific legal protections related to immigration status and are subject to immigration laws of the countries they enter.

Reminder to Staff:

Every student deserves a safe, supportive environment to learn and grow. If you have concerns or questions about a specific situation, please contact your building administrator for support. Together, we can uphold the rights and dignity of all our students and families.

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