

Curriculum Council:

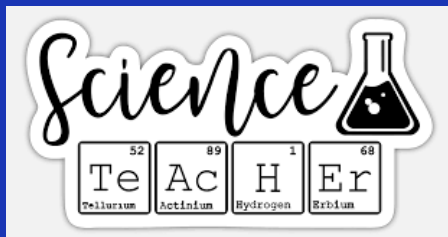
Responding to our Current Realities

February 7, 2025

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Jachan Watkis
Director of DEI



Jachan Watkis
“Chuck”
(he/him)



The Current Climate



FEDERAL REGISTER

Reader Aids :: Insight Into the FR Ecosystem



In 2025, Donald J. Trump signed 36 Executive orders (from EO 14147 through EO 14182).

This page contains documents that have been published in the Federal Register.* Because the White House cannot deliver a document to the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) until after the President signs a document, there is always a delay (of at least one day, typically of several days) between when the President signs a document and when it is published. Once received, OFR gives presidential documents priority processing and documents will appear on public inspection the business day before publication. If you are looking for a recently signed Presidential document, you may wish to check the [White House website](#).

These 36 Executive orders can be downloaded in [CSV/Excel](#) and [JSON](#) formats. More information about our APIs and other developer tools can be found on our [developer pages](#).



What is the Impact?

JULY
2024

LEADER'S EDGE



"IT IS NOT OUR DIFFERENCES THAT DIVIDE US. IT IS OUR INABILITY TO RECOGNIZE, ACCEPT, AND CELEBRATE THOSE DIFFERENCES."

— Audre Lorde

MEI VS DEI



What to Know?

- This can be overwhelming
- Some may struggle to stay engaged

What to Do?

- Keep your attention focused on mission critical work
- Rely on experts
- Practice going slow
- Stay in community

NYS Guidance on Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students



Office of the New York State
Attorney General

Letitia James | Attorney General



Office of the New York
Governor

Kathy Hochul | Governor



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge • Skill • Opportunity

Betty A. Rosa | Commissioner of Education

New York State Guidance on Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students

January 2025

The Office of the New York State Attorney General (OAG), the Office of New York Governor Kathy Hochul, and the New York State Education Department (SED) share a longstanding commitment to safeguarding the rights of all students, including all noncitizen students. Our offices have previously issued guidance to school districts and state agencies on several topics to ensure that New York's immigrant students have equal access to education and other public services.¹ In light of recent threats of increased federal immigration actions in our communities, we write to reaffirm that schools should remain a safe haven where all students are welcomed and provided a free public education.

This guidance highlights and clarifies relevant resources for school districts regarding their obligations under state and federal law. While the guidance does not address local policies that may afford additional protections, school districts should be aware of all policies governing their operations. To the extent questions arise regarding compliance, we encourage school districts to contact SED and OAG.²

I. Enrollment and Registration Requirements

Under New York law, all children ages 5 to 21 who have not received a high school diploma are entitled to a free public education in the district in which they live.³ School districts may not refuse admission based on national origin, immigration status, race, or language proficiency, among other grounds.⁴ The U.S. Supreme Court has likewise long held that students may not be denied a free public education based on their immigration status or that of their parents or guardians.⁵ School policies that thwart equal access to education may expose districts to legal liability and undermine school communities.

To ensure all students are welcome in New York schools, we remind school districts that they must not erect discriminatory barriers to enrollment or otherwise discourage immigrant students from registering.⁶ Schools must therefore consider various proofs of residency in a district and make publicly available a non-exhaustive list of acceptable forms of documentation.⁷ Schools are also prohibited from requesting a Social Security Card or number, or any information that would reveal immigration status at the time of enrollment.⁸ And schools must immediately enroll migrant and unhoused students even if they lack proof of residency, immunizations, school records, or other documents typically required for registration.⁹ For additional guidance on state and federal obligations with respect to enrollment and registration, school districts are encouraged to consult our 2023 Joint Enrollment Guidance.¹⁰

Moreover, the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as well as New York's Education Law and implementing regulations, create an affirmative obligation for school districts to provide access to education for students who are experiencing homelessness or living in temporary housing, including migrant shelters.¹¹ Our 2021 Joint McKinney-Vento Guidance elaborates on how school districts should fulfill their legal duties to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness.¹² It underscores that such students have a right to immediate enrollment, either at their school of origin

Immigration Enforcement on School Grounds

- 1 Meet the immigration agent at the school entrance, where all visitors are screened for entry.
- 2 At the entrance, request the agent's name and ID, and the reason for the visit during school hours.
- 3 Ensure the school's security guard notifies their supervisor(s), as appropriate.
- 4 School security shall not provide the agent with any information regarding a particular student without express authorization to do so from administration.
- 5 Direct the agent to the Superintendent's Office or another appropriate administrator designated by the Superintendent.
The Superintendent or designee should then request:
 - The agent's credentials,
 - Supervisor contact information
 - Any documentation from the agent (e.g., subpoena, search warrant, arrest warrant, or written authorization to enter the school grounds)
- 6 Inform the agent that protocols require notifying and obtaining guidance from legal counsel.
- 7 Ask the agent to wait while you seek guidance from legal counsel.
- 8 Contact legal counsel and provide them with the details and documentation obtained from the agent.
- 9 If the agent refuses to follow such instructions, do not physically intervene in any enforcement action. Instead, gather as much information as possible from the agent and notify the legal counsel and security supervisors.

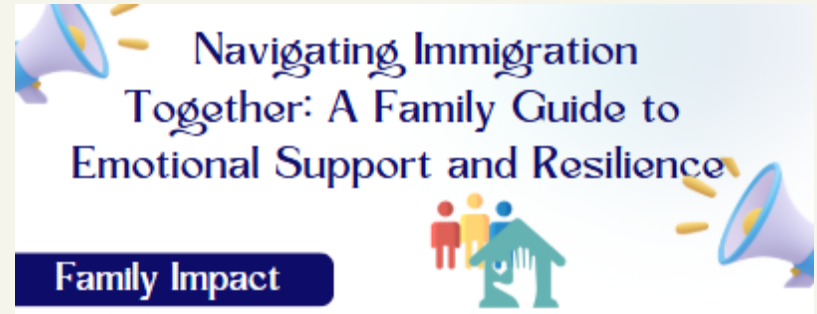
-work closely with
your legal council

-provide guidance
to your staff
based on board
supported actions

-do everything in
your power to de
escalate tensions

-be diligent in
updating student-
family contacts

Resources and Education



Maintain Focus

- Support Learning
- Address the need for psychological safety
- Lean into available state and local guidance



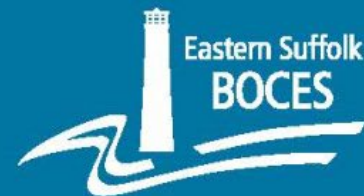
Encourage and support staff in using culturally responsive strategies that will allow them to access learning.



Fallback on existing policies and plans that are designed to support ALL of the learners in your schools.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



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