

# Protecting Student & Family Rights to Access Public Education

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**PALO ALTO**  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- PAUSD's Approach to Immigration Concerns
- Meet our SaFE Team
- Student Rights
- PAUSD's Responses to Immigration Enforcement
- Family Preparedness Plan
- Additional Resources
- Website
- Q&A



# The PAUSD Approach to Immigration Concerns

- Concerns about citizenship status and family/ student safety **varies** and is **personal**
- Personal matters require **1:1 outreach** and support
- Staff members on every campus that **KNOW your students** and what support is needed
- Recorded webinar and web page with **resources** will be available next week



# Meet your Student and Family Engagement Specialists (SaFEs)



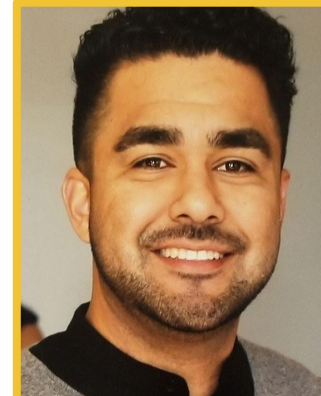
**Stacey Davidson**

District Wide, Escondido,  
Greene, PALY & Gunn



**Jose "Joey" Ordonez**

Gunn



**Abel Velazquez**

Greene & PALY



**Christian Munoz**

Briones, El Carmelo,  
Palo Verde, & Ohlone



**Christine Castillo**

JLS & Fletcher



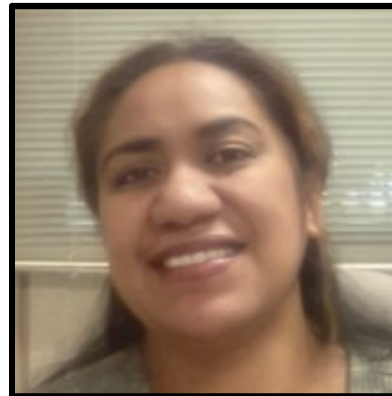
**Qingmin Wang**

District Wide, Gunn, JLS,  
Greene & Fletcher



**Michael Martin**

JLS, PALY & Hoover



**Mele Tupou**

District Wide  
& PALY



**Lily Sanchez**

Escondido, Barron Park,  
Nixon, & Duveneck



**Claudia Quiroga Cortez**

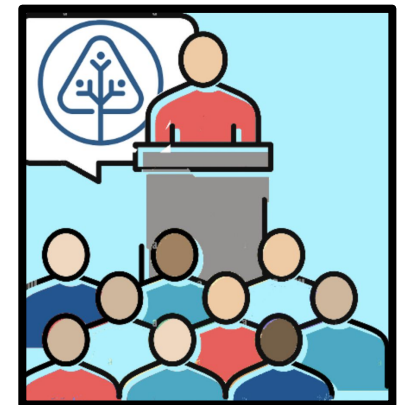
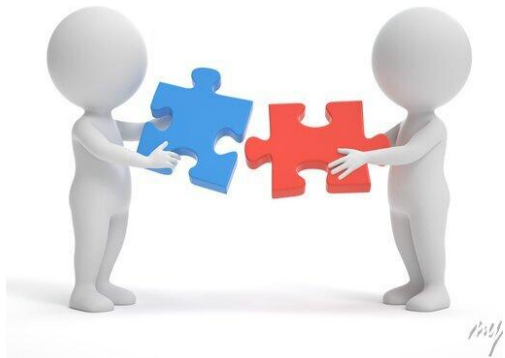
Addison, Fairmeadow, & Walter Hays



# What is the role of the SaFE?

- **Connect**
- **Educate**
- **Engage**
- **Provide Resources**

*... to PAUSD's Historically Underrepresented Students (HUR)*



# SaFE Site Level Services



## ELEMENTARY

- Welcome Families to PAUSD
- After School (ELOP) Enrollment
- Introduction to PAUSD Systems



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Help Educate Families on Online Platforms
- Connect Students to After School Programs
- Multi-Disciplinary Team (MTSS), Site Equity Initiatives



## HIGH SCHOOL

- Student Oriented Support
- Admin Team Meetings
- Parent Education



# The Right to Access Public Education

The U.S. Supreme Court has long guaranteed that all children have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status. See Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202, 213, 230 (1982) (*with emphasis*).

The California Education Code identifies: “Every student in California has the right to attend public school in the state free from discrimination, harassment, violence, intimidation, and bullying.” Cal. Ed. Code §§ 220, 234, et seq.

The California Department of Education has recently reaffirmed, “All children in the United States, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, have a right to a free and appropriate public education.” See CDE Letter, January 21, 2025.



# PAUSD's Response to Immigration Enforcement

Since 2018, the Board of Education has been committed to the success of all students and believed that “every school site should be a safe and welcoming place for all students and their families irrespective of their citizenship or immigration status.”  
See PAUSD Board Policy § 5145.13.

As a result, PAUSD's response and procedure has been classified into three categories:

1. Requests for Information
2. Requests for Access to Students or School Grounds
3. Responding to the Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member





# 1. Requests For Information

Unless authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student information shall not be disclosed to immigration law enforcement authorities without parental consent, a court order, or judicial subpoena.

All District Staff in receipt of any verbal or written requests for information related to a student's or family's immigration/citizenship status must:

1. Notify the Superintendent or Amanda Bark (Manager of Policy & Compliance) about the information request.
2. Provide the student and family notice and a description of the immigration officer's request.
3. Provide the student and parent/guardians with any documents provided by the immigration enforcement officer, unless:
  - The disclosure is prohibited by a subpoena served on PAUSD; or
  - In cases involving investigations of child abuse, neglect, or dependency.
4. Document the immigration authorities' request for information.



## 2. Requests For Access to Students or School Grounds

District staff must receive parent/guardian consent before a student is interviewed or searched by any officer seeking to enforce civil immigration laws at the school, unless the officer presents a valid and effective (1) warrant signed by a judge; and/or (2) court order.

A student's parent/guardian must be immediately notified if a law enforcement officer requests or gains access to the student for immigration enforcement purposes, unless the judicial warrant/subpoena restricts disclosure to the parent/guardian.

Immigration enforcement officers, must register with the principal or available site administrator upon entering school grounds during school hours, and provide the site administration with their:

- Name,
- Address,
- Occupation,
- Age,
- Purpose in entering school grounds,
- Proof of identity or valid form of government identification, and
- Any other information required by law.



## 2. Requests For Access to Students or School Grounds

### Reporting Obligations for all District Staff involved:

- District staff must report the presence of any immigration enforcement officers to the Superintendent, Legal Department, and/or the immediate Site Administrator.
- District staff must notify the Superintendent or Legal Department of any request by an immigration enforcement officer for access to the school or a student or for review of school documents, including service of lawful subpoenas, petitions, complaints, warrants, or other such documents.

See PAUSD Administrative Regulation § 5145.13.



### 3. Responding to Detention or Deportation of a Student's Family Member

- A. If a student's parent/guardian is detained or deported by federal immigration authorities, the Site Principal **must** release the student to (1) the person(s) designated in the student's **emergency contact information** or (2) to any individual who presents a **caregiver's authorization affidavit** on behalf of the student.
- B. The Site Principal shall only contact child protective services (CPS) **if District personnel are unable to arrange for the timely care of the student** by the person(s) designated in the emergency contact information maintained by the school or identified on a caregiver's authorization affidavit.
- C. The Site Principal and District personnel will coordinate any access to **mental health and/or wellness support** based on a student's needs.



# Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan

1. Make a child care plan
  - a. Update Infinite Campus so there are at least three emergency contacts that do not live in your household.
  - b. Communicate with your child(ren) who are the emergency contacts and the plan for who would care for them if necessary.
  - c. Consider a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit ("CAA")
  
2. Find out about your Immigration Options
  
3. Know your rights
  - a. Red cards
  - b. Other resources- will be posted on PAUSD website



**Questions?**

Thank you for joining us.





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