

Policy Regarding School Response to Federal Immigration Enforcement Activities

Approved by WCS Board 4/17/2025

Purpose. This policy outlines procedures for Woods Charter School to follow in the event of federal immigration enforcement activities that may impact students, staff, or school operations. This policy is designed to protect the safety and well-being of students, maintain a safe and secure learning environment, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Guiding Principles

- **Student Safety and Well-being:** The primary concern is the safety and well-being of all students.
- **Educational Continuity:** The School is committed to providing uninterrupted educational services to all students.
- **Legal Compliance:** All actions taken will comply with federal and state law.
- **Confidentiality:** Student and family information will be protected to the maximum legal extent.

Preliminary Process

1. **Notification.** If school personnel become aware of potential or actual immigration enforcement activity on or near school grounds, such personnel must immediately notify the Head of School (or authorized designee).
2. **Legal Counsel.** The School's legal counsel should be contacted promptly, as needed.

Access to School Grounds

1. All school personnel must direct any non-school agent, whether immigration, law enforcement or other agent, to the Head of School and shall not engage in any substantive communication with such agent other than to direct and facilitate that agents meeting with the Head of School.
2. Immigration enforcement or other agents, in general, should not be granted access to school grounds, school activities, or school staff or students without a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge requiring such access, or as otherwise legally required. (Access to the school office to meet with the Head of School shall be accorded by discretion of the Head of School.)
3. If any agent seeks to carry out any investigation or request for information, the Head of School shall request to see a proper court-issued warrant. If no warrant is produced, access should be denied.
 - If agents present a proper warrant, the Head of School should:
 - Carefully review the warrant to ensure its validity and scope.
 - Confer with legal counsel immediately.

- Document the name, agency, badge number, and arrival and departure times of all agents.
- Limit the agents' access to the specific areas, individuals, records, etc. identified in the warrant.
- Observe and document all interactions between agents and students or staff.

4. Student Interviews/Detentions:

- School personnel shall *not* facilitate interviews or detentions of students by immigration enforcement agents without a valid judicial warrant.
- If agents attempt to interview or detain a student without a warrant, school personnel should:
 - Inform the agents that they cannot interview or detain the student without a warrant.
 - Inform the student of their right to remain silent and their right to an attorney.
 - Attempt to contact the student's parents/guardians immediately.
- If agents present a warrant for a student, school personnel should follow the assigned procedure.

5. Parent/Guardian Notification: If a student is detained or if there is immigration enforcement activity that may impact a student, school personnel will make every reasonable effort to notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible, unless instructed otherwise by a valid court order.

6. Maintaining School Operations: School personnel will seek to maintain normal school operations and minimize disruptions.

7. Counseling and Support Services: The School will provide counseling and support services to students and families who may be affected by immigration enforcement activities.

8. Staff Training: All school personnel will receive annual training on this policy and related legal requirements.

9. Communication with the Community: The School will communicate with the community about this policy and its commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of all students.

Confidentiality: School personnel will maintain the confidentiality of student records and information, including any information related to immigration status, to the extent permitted by law.

Review and Revision: This policy will be reviewed and revised periodically to ensure compliance with all laws and best practices.

Legal References:

- Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)
- Fourth and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution (Protection against unreasonable searches and seizures)
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)