

## Letter to Families Regarding Immigration Enforcement

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Southern Kern Unified School District is committed to ensuring that all students feel safe, welcomed, and supported at school. We are writing to share information about district policies and procedures related to immigration enforcement and student rights.

### **Our Commitment to Students and Families**

All students have the right to a free public education regardless of citizenship or immigration status. The district does not collect or require information about a student's or family's immigration status as a condition of enrollment or participation in school programs.

### **Protection of Student Information**

Student records and personal information are protected by state and federal law. The district will not release student information for immigration enforcement purposes unless required by law, such as through a valid judicial subpoena, warrant, or court order, or with written parent/guardian consent.

### **Requests by Immigration Enforcement**

If an agency conducting immigration enforcement requests access to student records or a student on school grounds, the district will follow all legal requirements and district procedures. When permitted by law, parents or guardians will be notified of such requests.

### **School Campuses and Safety**

Immigration enforcement officers are not permitted to enter nonpublic areas of school campuses or access students during the school day unless legally authorized. The district has procedures in place to respond appropriately to any such requests while prioritizing student safety and privacy.

### **Family Preparedness**

We encourage families to keep emergency contact information up to date with their school and to identify trusted adults who may care for their child in the event of an emergency. This helps ensure continuity of care for students under any circumstances.

### **Additional Resources**

Families may access information about educational rights through the California Attorney General's "Know Your Educational Rights" resources, which are available on the district website and at school offices.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact your school principal or the district office.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Our schools are places of learning, safety, and belonging for every student.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gaines  
Superintendent  
Southern Kern USD