



TO: Connecticut School Districts
FROM: Tabitha Sookdeo, Executive Director, CT Immigrant Support Network
DATE: September 15, 2026
RE: Keeping Students Safe Amid Increased Immigration Enforcement

The Connecticut Immigrant Support Network ([CISN](#)) is a statewide coordination and capacity-building network that supports organizations working with immigrant communities across Connecticut. CISN is an initiative of Connecticut Students for a Dream ([C4D](#)), and The American Immigrant Legal Clinic ([TAILC](#)) is a project within the CISN initiative.

Every child in Connecticut has the right to attend public school, regardless of immigration status. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that right more than forty years ago.¹ It means little, though, if a student is too afraid to leave the house. Across the state, families are keeping young people home from school, from practice, and off the bus, and attendance is falling in the communities most affected by immigration enforcement. Keeping students present and ready to learn is the shared work of every district, and right now that work depends on families feeling safe enough to send their children.

WHAT IS HAPPENING ACROSS CONNECTICUT

Since January 2025, immigrant families in Connecticut have lived with steadily rising fear as federal enforcement has intensified. White House data show 762 ICE arrests statewide between January 2025 and May 2026, and independent analysis by the CT Data Collaborative identified 632 apprehensions in 2025 alone. Between 2025 and 2026, at least six Connecticut high school students were detained, and two university students were detained while traveling through the Tweed New Haven Airport.

The week of August 24 to 28, 2026 brought the highest level of immigration enforcement the state has seen in recent memory, and quite possibly ever.² Community partners reported more than 94 detentions in four days. In Danbury and Stamford, the arrests were reported at day-laborer sites, on residential streets, near homes, and around school bus stops,³ rather than as targeted actions against people with criminal records. In Danbury, enforcement began on the first

¹ *Plyler v. Doe* (1982).

² [CT Public Radio](#). A week of ICE enforcement sees upwards of 100 detentions across if parents are detained, so PreparednessCT; [CT Insider](#). ICE confirms 118 arrests in Connecticut during four-day operation last month

³ [CT Insider](#). Video appears to show ICE arrest near CT school bus stop if parents are d hasout etained, so .

day of school, and parents were detained at bus stops, in some cases moments after putting a child on the bus.

FAMILIES NEED CLINICS AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN SESSIONS

Now more than ever, students and their families need resources. Schools are a trusted source that can facilitate service delivery. Students and their families need opportunities to fill out [Family Preparedness Plans](#). These documents define guardianship procedures if parents are detained, so children have a clear emergency plan. A Family Preparedness Plan helps a family assemble key documents, name a caregiver for their children, and know who to call before anything happens. When a school hosts these clinics, it reaches the families who need them most, in a place they already trust. Our organization is happy to help facilitate these clinics in your district.

RESOURCES

- I. We are available to consult with your district at no cost. We can help you plan and host clinics at your schools, including know-your-rights sessions and family preparedness workshops. Contact us at info@ct4adream.org, fill out this [form](#), or check out more resources at ctimmigrants.org.



II. Connecticut Family Preparedness Plan (State of Connecticut): [Family Preparedness Plan](#)

Immigration Resources: Family Preparedness Plan

This Family Preparedness Packet, updated as of August 2026, is provided for general informational purposes only. It was developed by the Haven Free Clinic Medical Legal Partnership at Yale Law School, in consultation with Connecticut immigration nonprofits and legal experts. While the State of Connecticut supports broad access to trusted resources, this packet does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship.

The translated versions are intended to increase accessibility but may not reflect all legal nuances.

Individuals and families are strongly encouraged to consult with a qualified attorney or legal service provider before relying on or completing any of the forms included in the packet.



READ MORE...

III. Connecticut State Department of Education, Guidance to K-12 Public Schools Pertaining to Immigration Activities: [CSDE Guidance](#)



Guidance to K-12 Public Schools Pertaining to Immigration Activities

Connecticut is staunchly committed to providing safe and supportive school environments that foster learning and personal growth for all our students and their families.

We know that recent actions taken by the current federal administration have raised many questions from school districts, and fear among students and their families, about what to expect if federal immigration officials request information or come onto school grounds. While there is reason to believe the risk of such instances may remain low, circumstances can change rapidly, and it is important to be prepared and assure families that a plan is in place. Therefore, this guidance is being issued to assist school districts in identifying their rights and responsibilities, and those of students and families.

Note: This guidance is designed to ensure compliance with state and federal laws.



READ MORE...

IV. ACLU of Connecticut, Legal Rights of Immigrant Students, with a district and school self-assessment checklist: [ACLU-CT Memo](#)



January 31, 2025

Via email

ALL CONNECTICUT SCHOOL DISTRICTS
CC: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Re: Legal Rights of Immigrant Students in Connecticut Public Schools

Dear Superintendent:

Recognizing the sensitivity of schools and certain other locations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) previously maintained a "sensitive locations" policy over several different presidential administrations that limited immigration enforcement at schools and certain other locations.¹ However, ICE and CBP rescinded the policy on January 21st, and so no longer restrain themselves from questioning or detaining people near schools, playgrounds, or bus stops.



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