SAN MATEO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Excellence and Equity in Education

Marco A. Chávez • County Superintendent of Schools

Dear San Mateo County Students, Families, Residents, Friends, and Partners,

The San Mateo County Office of Education has received credible reports of increased federal immigration enforcement activity in the Bay Area. We know many students, families, and educators are feeling fear and uncertainty, and we want to reassure you that our schools are, and will remain, places of safety, learning, and belonging for every child.

What is true today:

- Every student is entitled to a free public education regardless of immigration status. This is settled law under *Plyler v. Doe*.
- Schools do not ask about a student's or family's immigration status as a condition of enrollment.
- Student records are protected by federal and state privacy laws. We do not release personally identifiable student information without a lawful court order.
- We will maintain safe and supportive campuses. Learning cannot happen when students are afraid, so we will take concrete steps to reduce fear, share facts, and keep routines stable.

What we are doing now:

- Coordinating with district leaders to ensure consistent information goes out to families in the top languages spoken in our county.
- Communicating with school districts about student and family rights, attendance, and privacy to ensure staff can respond accurately to questions.
- Increasing mental health and wellness support for students who may be experiencing stress, anxiety, or trauma.
- Working with trusted community partners to connect families with legal information, Know Your Rights materials, and rapid response support.

What families can do:

- Keep children in school. School is a safe and stabilizing place for learning, nutrition, and support.
- Make an emergency family plan. Identify a trusted adult who can pick up your child if needed and ensure the school has current contact information.
- Reach out to your principal, counselor, or family liaison with questions.

If you see ICE activity in San Mateo County or if you know someone who has been detained, please call the Rapid Response Hotline for San Mateo County: (203) 666-4472 (or 203 NO-MIGRA).



Additional resources:

- Bay Area Resources / Recursos del Área de la Bahía
  - Bay Area Legal Aid / Asistencia legal del Área de la Bahía (English / Español)
  - Local Legal Resources / Recursos legales locales (English / Español)
  - San Mateo County Office of Education - Resources for Undocumented Students and Families / Recursos para apoyar a familias indocumentadas de la Oficina de Educación del Condado de San Mateo (English / Español)
  - Faith in Action Rapid Response / Faith in Action Línea de Respuesta Comunitaria (English / Español)
- California State Resources / Recursos del Estado de California
  - CA.gov - Immigration and California Families / CA.gov - Inmigracion y familias en California (English / Español)
  - CA Department of Justice - Know Your Educational Rights (English) / CA Departamento de Justicia - Conozca sus derechos educativos (Español)
  - CA Department of Justice - Quick reference guide for school officials (English)
- National Resources / Recursos nacionales
  - Immigrants Rising (English)
  - ACLU - Student Rights (English)
  - ACLU - Immigrant Rights / Derechos de los Inmigrantes (English / Español)
  - Family Preparedness Plan - ILRC (English) / Plan de preparación familiar - ILRC (Español)
  - Community Resources - ILRC (English)

To our students: You belong in our schools. You are valued. Your dreams strengthen this community. Together, we will continue to protect the dignity, safety, and promise of every child who walks through our school doors.

In solidarity and commitment,



Marco A. Chávez
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools