

School Response to Immigration Enforcement Activity



Legal Requirement: Limit Immigration Enforcement at Schools

- **Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has a legal obligation to educate all students residing within district boundaries regardless of immigration status or national origin. State laws also require public schools in Washington to limit immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible under other applicable laws.**

Legal Requirement:

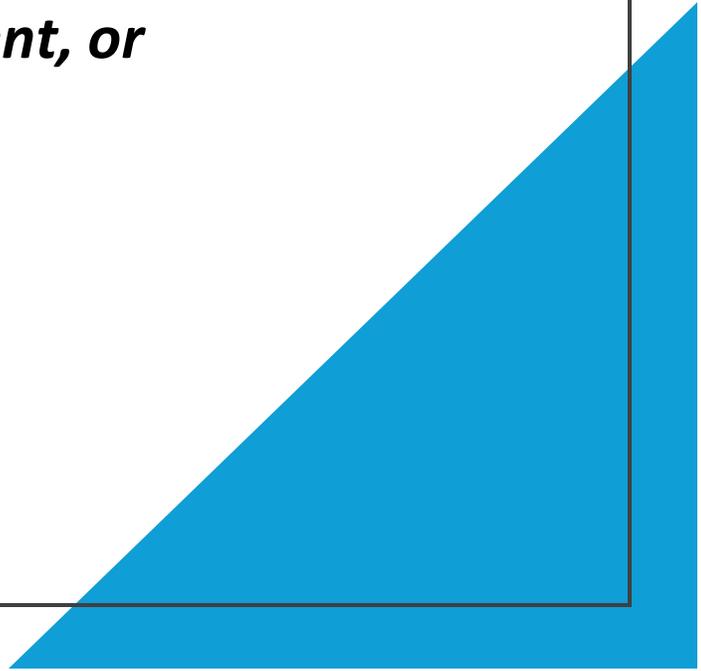
Only authorized persons may enter schools

Any person seeking to enter a school must identify themselves, be authorized to enter by school staff, and must comply with all District policies, procedures, and school rules while on school property.

SPS does not consent to federal immigration authorities, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), accessing its school facilities except when required by law

Legal Requirement: No Direct Access to Student Information

School principals and other school staff shall not grant immigration authorities access to any information, student, or school facility without prior approval from the General Counsel's office.



What staff will do if Immigration Enforcement Comes to School

01

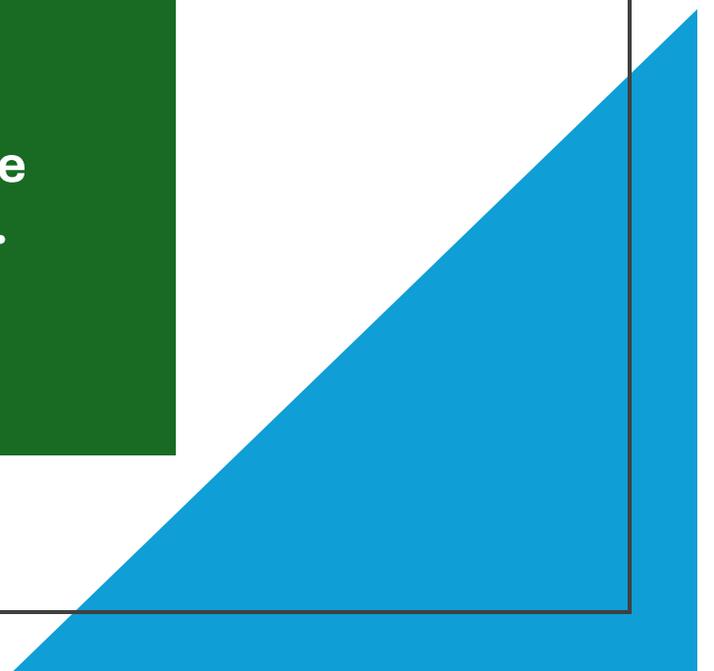
Deny Immediate Building Access.

02

Direct the Individual to the Principal or Designee.

03

Do Not Share Information.



**What Principal
Bruno or her
designee will do
If Immigration
Enforcement
Comes to
School**

**Communicate with the Immigration
Authority outside the building**

Collect Credentials

**Request a Copy of the Court Order or
Judicial Warrant**

**Forward the Documentation for Legal
Review.**

**Await Guidance from the General
Counsel's Office.**

What we'll do if: Reports or Rumors of Off-Campus Immigration Enforcement Activity Near Schools

1

Inform the principal or their designee

2

Consult: Safety and Security will convene a 411-Response Team when circumstances necessitate.

3

Assess: Identify safety concerns and determine appropriate response with 411-Response Team

4

Respond: Shelter in place and/or continue to monitor

****The principal is always Incident Commander for Emergencies and will direct any immediate necessary action in an emergency***

Talking to Children about Immigration Enforcement

START THE CONVERSATION

Begin by asking: "What do you know about ICE?" This gives you insight into what they've heard or seen. If they say "I don't know," you can gently explain:

"ICE is a government group that checks if people are following immigration laws. Some families are scared of them because they help decide who can stay in the U.S. Have you heard about people moving to new countries?"

AGES 3-6

"Some families are being treated unfairly because of where they were born. You're safe, and I'm here with you."

- Keep it simple and comforting
- Provide extra hugs, reassurance, and routines.

AGES 7-11

"Some families are being separated because of how they came to the U.S. Even kids are getting hurt, and that's not okay."

- Be honest without overwhelming

WHAT **NOT** TO SAY

- "Don't worry about it." Dismisses their feelings
- "That won't happen to us." Creates false reassurance

AGES 12-18

"It's not right for people to be treated unfairly because of where they're from. This hurts kids and families."

- Acknowledge their awareness
- Encourage healthy ways to process: writing, talking, art, advocacy.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ALL AGES

"It's okay to feel scared or frustrated. What matters is we talk about it and help each other feel better."

- Encourage breathing, drawing, or journaling

WHAT TO SAY **INSTEAD**

"You're not alone in this. People are trying to help, and I'm one of them. If you ever feel scared, we can talk about it together."

Talking to Children about Immigration Enforcement

YOUR FEELINGS MATTER

It's normal to feel scared, confused, or upset. You might hear things about ICE or people being taken away.

Here's how you can feel a little better:

- Take 3 slow, deep breaths
- Talk to someone you trust
- Draw or write what you're feeling
- Tell yourself: "I am safe right now."

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

Yes! Even kids have rights.

If someone from ICE comes or asks questions:

- You don't have to talk
- You don't have to open the door
- You can say: "I want to talk to a lawyer"
- You can use a Red Card (ask a grown-up for one)

YOUR FAMILY PLAN

Ask your grown-up about your safety plan.

Things you should know:

- Your full name and your parent's name
- A phone number you can call
- Who will take care of you if needed
- Where important papers are kept

Your family can practice the plan with you.
(We have a Family Preparedness Toolkit on our website!)

Ask a parent or grown-up if it's okay to visit: www.childnet.org

HELPING YOUR FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY

You can help if someone you care about is scared:

- Be kind and listen
- Say: "I'm here for you"
- Take deep breaths together
- Tell a trusted adult if something feels wrong
- Learn about your rights and talk to your family

SPEAK UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

Your voice matters. Even if you're a kid, you can help make the world better!

When something feels unfair or wrong:

- Talk with a trusted adult
- Ask questions
- Stand up for your friends
- Say: "That's not okay"

You don't have to be loud to be brave.

WHO CAN I TALK TO?

You never have to face things alone.

If you're scared or confused, talk to:

- Your parent or caregiver
- A teacher or school counselor
- A family friend or trusted adult

There are people who want to help you feel safe.

