



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 27, 2024

Dear School Leaders,

In this season of giving thanks, I'm writing to you with deep and abiding gratitude for all you do every day to educate and care for the children of California. At this moment, as we continue our shared work to provide all students with a safe and supportive environment, I am compelled to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the rights and dignity of all students within our education system including immigrant students and students from immigrant families.

Like our nation, California has long been strengthened by the contributions of immigrant families to our economy and communities. We are a diverse state, where immigrants are our family, colleagues, neighbors and students. Recent developments at the federal level, combined with the disturbing trends of misinformation and harassment that have been spreading online, have turned hope into fear for too many families. I assure you that we will continue to work collaboratively to provide all our students with the opportunity and environment in which to thrive, learn, and succeed.

It is critical that we work together so that all children can access a quality education, be safe and secure on campus, get healthy meals and mental health care, and have the freedom to read books and learn history, while continuing to ensure their parents have the right to actively participate in their child's education.

In California's public schools, the law requires that the following be upheld:

- 1. Non-Discrimination:** All students, including those who are undocumented or come from immigrant families, have the right to attend public school, participate in school activities, and receive a quality education without discrimination.
- 2. Safe School Environment:** Schools are generally prohibited from voluntarily granting access to campus by immigration enforcement officers, in the absence of a judicial warrant or court order. Schools are prohibited from requesting social security numbers or inquiring about the citizenship or

immigration status of students or their parents or guardians, unless explicitly required by law.

3. Confidentiality of Student Information: Schools must protect the privacy of their students. Schools are prohibited from sharing personal information about students or their family members for immigration-enforcement purposes without a court order or judicial subpoena.

Additionally, immigrant students and children of immigrants may experience unique challenges, including trauma from displacement, family separation, and fear and uncertainty about their futures. Schools are uniquely positioned to provide a supportive environment that helps these students, and all students, thrive. I encourage you to continue fostering inclusive communities where every student is seen, heard, and valued.

Last week, I directed my staff to invite statewide education associations to a meeting to discuss the growing questions and concerns regarding the intersection of federal immigration policy and enforcement practices and TK-12 public schools. Experts from the California Departments of Justice, Education, and Social Services shared applicable legal guidance and resources<sup>1</sup> and discussed the process and timeline for developing updates and additional responsive materials.

We will be working collaboratively to establish both a common hub for these resource materials and any future updates to them so all members of our schools community will have a common understanding of the law and a network for raising and addressing issues as they emerge. Attached is an initial outline of resources to support families that will also be included on the resource hub.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Promoting a Safe and Secure Learning Environment for All: Guidance and Model Policies to Assist California's K-12 Schools in Responding to Immigration Issues (Office of the Attorney General): school-guidance-model-k12.pdf;

Newcomer Students (Department of Education):  
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ml/newcomerstudnts.asp>

Office of Immigrant Youth (Department of Social Services):  
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/refugees/programs-and-info/youth;>

Plyler Dear Colleague Letter and Fact Sheet (U.S. Departments of Education and Justice):  
<https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201405.pdf> and  
<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2014/05/08/plylerfact.pdf>

School leaders and educators play an essential role in providing a safe environment for all students to learn and grow. Your leadership in maintaining a welcoming and supportive school culture is more important than ever. Please continue to reach out to your local communities to ensure that all students, regardless of immigration status, know their rights and feel supported.



# SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA FAMILIES

## Immigration Services

- **CalNEW** serves socioeconomically disadvantaged newcomer students, unaccompanied undocumented minors, English-learners, and immigrant families.
- **Immigration Help** may be available from state funded nonprofit organizations. See a provider list here.

## Immigration Services

### Adults Generally

- CalHOPE Warmline (**833) 317-HOPE (4673)**) - currently provides telephone and text-based services in English and Spanish. For callers requesting to receive support in other languages, the CalHOPE Warm Line provides telephone-based (not text-based) services via a third-party interpretation service (Language-Link), which offers telephonic interpretation in over 240 additional languages.
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. This line also offers interpretation in 240 languages through Language Line Solutions. There is also a national 988 site in Spanish. Individuals can call or text 988, press 2, and get access to a Spanish-speaking counselor 24/7.

### Flyer for Parents

- <https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/CYBHI-ResourcesFor-Parents-web-1.pdf>

### Flyer for Students

- <https://cybhi.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/CYBHI-ResourcesFor-Studentsweb-1.pdf>

### Online Resources:

- Soluna
- Brightlife Kids
- Never a Bother
- Life Beyond

## California v. Hate Hotline

<https://www.cavshate.org>

Any victim of or witness to a hate incident or crime in California can report it and receive support by calling 833-8-NO-HATE; (833) 866-4283 Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm. If outside of those hours, you can leave a voicemail, or you can call 211 to report hate and seek support.

You can currently submit reports online in 15 languages and, when calling the hotline, you can get access to support in over 200 languages. If you want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or you are in present danger, please call 911.

