

[Are Children of Illegal Immigrants Entitled to a Public Education?](#)

The New York Times Blogs

(The Learning Network)

October 6, 2011 Thursday

Copyright 2011 The News York Times Company All Rights Reserved

Section: **EDUCATION**

Length: 293 words

Byline: SUSANNAH L. GRIFFEE

Highlight: What is your take on the school-registration provision of Alabama's new immigration law?

Body

A New York Times editorial, ["Alabama's Shame,"](#) argues that the Alabama immigration law is cruel and counterproductive:

School superintendents and principals across the state confirm that attendance of Hispanic **children** has dropped noticeably since the word went out that school officials are now required to check the immigration status of newly enrolled students and their parents.

That rule is part of the law's sweeping attempt to curtail the rights and complicate the lives of people without papers, making them unable to enter contracts, find jobs, rent homes or access government services. In other words, to be isolated, unemployable, poor, defenseless and uneducated.

The **education** crackdown is particularly senseless and unconstitutional. In 1982, the Supreme Court found that all **children** living in the United States have the right to a **public education**, whatever their immigration status. The justices' reasoning was shaped not by compassion but practicality: it does the country no good to perpetuate an uneducated underclass.

Students: Tell us what you think about Alabama's immigration law, including the school registration provision. What are the [arguments for and against](#) the provision? Which do you most strongly agree and disagree with? Does the law unfairly keep **children** from attending school? Or does it ensure that **illegal immigrants** cannot take advantage of services meant for American citizens?

Students 13 and older are invited to comment below. Please use only your first name. For [privacy policy](#) reasons, we will not publish student comments that include a last name.

- [Of Coyotes, Crossings and Cellphones](#)
- [100 Years Later: Examining the Impact of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire](#)
- [A Dream Deferred](#)
- [Test Yourself | History, Nov. 12, 2010](#)

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Are Children of Illegal Immigrants Entitled to a Public Education?

Document-Type: News

Publication-Type: Web Blog

Subject: IMMIGRATION (92%); US STATE IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); **CHILDREN** (90%); **EDUCATION** ADMINISTRATION (90%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (90%); EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION EMPLOYEES (90%); **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS** (89%); **EDUCATION** SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS (89%); **PUBLIC** SCHOOLS (89%); SCHOOL PRINCIPALS (78%); RIGHT TO **EDUCATION** (78%); SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (78%); SUPREME COURTS (74%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (69%); immigration; Student Opinion

Industry: **EDUCATION** SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS (89%); **PUBLIC** SCHOOLS (89%)

Geographic: ALABAMA, USA (92%); UNITED STATES (92%)

Load-Date: October 6, 2011

End of Document