

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)
from School Communities on Immigration Enforcement
List In-development –(org. Jan/Feb 2025, last updated Sept. 2025)
shareable link: <https://caltog.co/4hh1v8p>

What are the existing policies in California that school personnel need to be aware of?

In 2017 the California Legislature passed AB699, which required the California Attorney General to publish [model policies](#) in responding to immigration issues to ensure “that public schools remain safe and accessible to all California residents regardless of immigration status”. The law also required that “by July 1, 2018, all local educational agencies in California, including all school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, adopt these or equivalent policies”. The policies* cover a range of related items including school enrollment, collection and protection of data, and prevention of and response to bullying (find your [local policies here](#)).

*District policies cover a variety of areas, including:

1. Gathering and Handling Student and Family Information: prohibits the collection of information or documents regarding the immigration or citizenship status of students.
2. Sharing Student and Family Information: requires schools to keep records confidential and uphold
3. Responding to Requests for Access to School Grounds for Immigration-Enforcement Purposes:
4. Responding to Detention or Deportation of a Student’s Family Member: requires schools to take proactive measures and establish protocols for when parents are not able to pick up their child.
5. Responding to Hate Crimes & Bullying Related to National Origin or Ethnicity:

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and Training of staff and communication to students and families about the district policies and complaint process for any perceived violation of the policies is required.

California Values Act (2017): a California law that limits local law enforcement's involvement in federal immigration enforcement, restricting them from using resources to investigate, detain, or arrest individuals for immigration purposes, and prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from inquiring about an individual's immigration status.

What direction has the California Department of Education given to counties and school districts?

- Memo to School District and County Office of Education Superintendents and Charter School leaders, “Reminder of Obligation to Protect Immigrant Families’ Rights to Access Public Education” (1/21/2025): <https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/yr25cdoletter0121.asp>

What tools are available to assist with training staff?

- Video of appropriate agency response scenario (can be shared with school personnel for planning protocols for responding to requests from immigration enforcement officers or to staff/families to help them understand protocols that have been adopted)
 - English version: <https://youtu.be/O8iCAIYXvDc>
 - Spanish version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N_8SHqWadc

How can I see what policies have been adopted to support immigrant and refugee students in my district? Are there any tools that could help me assess how well we are implementing them?

- Conduct an audit of your local board policies: <https://caltog.co/3u05a7c>

What should I do if I suspect a violation of any of the policies required in AB699?

- Contact your school or district administrator or a trusted messenger in your community to discuss your concern. Most school leaders will want to address the issue.
- Education Complaint Guide: https://www.myschoolmyrights.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Education-Complaint-Guide_2025-update.pdf
- If you identify barriers to enrollment, collecting information or documents that show immigration status, file a complaint. Parent complaint form: English <https://caltog.co/36Hn053> Spanish <https://caltog.co/3kiDn8k>
- You may also e-mail the Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice, at BCJ@doj.ca.gov, or submit a complaint on the Bureau's website at <https://oag.ca.gov/bcj/complaint>

Are there any webinars where I can get more information about the policies that support immigrant students and families?

- All In for Safe Schools Campaign: <https://allinforhealth.org/safe-schools/>
- The California School Board Association (CSBA) Immigration & Policy Webinar on January 23, 2025 ([recording](#), [slides](#))
- CalNew webinar series including [Law and Legal Services for Newcomers](#) and [Safe and Welcoming Schools](#):

What resources are available to help families needing immigrant legal assistance?

- Free Legal Service Providers -funded by CDSS: https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Immigration/ISF/FY25-26%20ISF%20Grantee%20Referral%20List%20V_%2008-2025_ADA.pdf?ver=QDTKJiTr21WjtTaDbU8dWQ%3d%3d
- CalNew Webinar (CDSS/California Newcomer Network) on [Law and Legal Services for Newcomers](#)
- Know Your Rights cards
 - 'Red cards' (multilingual, to order or print, red background) -ILRC: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>
 - Rights Cards (English/Spanish, printable, white background): <https://caltog.co/3SMPZan>
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- **What do I need to know about the President's recent executive order related to sensitive locations (like schools, churches, hospitals)?**
- NILC [fact sheet](#) on rescission of protected areas
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How can families understand their rights and develop a preparedness plan?

- Resource guide for families from the Attorney General, [Know Your Educational Rights and a Checklist for Immigrant Students and Families](#) (also in [Spanish](#))
- Guidance in developing a family safety plan (Immigrant Legal Resource Center): https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/family_preparedness_plan.pdf
- Videos on Family Preparedness - Immigration Public services announcement (PSA) These PSA videos were made available thanks to the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#) and [Legal Services for Children](#), in collaboration with [trusted legal services providers funded by the California Department of Social Services](#).
 - short English version 2 min <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjDUnNoAyZI>
 - short Spanish version, 2 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OITXBCNlrkI&list=PLIOioaWjCOYg_0IG9WT-5IATEw9_vAY27&i

[index=2](#)

- full English version, 9 min:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plgYYZHZCso&list=PLIOiaWjC0Yg_0IG9WT-5IATEw9_vAY27&index=4
- full Spanish version, 9 min.:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm6EjTmF0m8&list=PLIOiaWjC0Yg_0IG9WT-5IATEw9_vAY27&index=3

What are some other ways communities are supporting residents?

- Creating and delivering messages to the public, such as this joint statement from the Woodland Joint Unified School District Superintendent and the Woodland Police Department (in English and Spanish) which notes the responsibilities that school districts have to protect immigrant students and families under AB699 as well as the police officers responsibility to follow the California Values Act, mentioned by name in the video. Video with English captions: <https://youtu.be/meh2PuF30Bg> Video with Spanish captions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meh2PuF30Bg&t=1s>
- Hotlines and Rapid response networks (by region): <https://www.ccijustice.org/find-your-local-rr-hotline>
- All in for Safe Schools: <https://allinforhealth.org/safe-schools/>

What are some effective ways to create warm and inclusive school environments?

- Fostering belonging -addressing anti-immigrant bullying -from Reimagining Migration
<https://reimaginingmigration.org/resource-items/fostering-belonging-a-guide-to-addressing-anti-immigrant-bullying-in-schools/>
- Support for Immigrant and Refugee Students - Classroom Lesson Modules from Californians Together:
<https://californianstogether.org/what-we-do/our-initiatives/support-immigrant-refugee-students-2/>

What related legislation is currently being proposed in CA: last update 9.11.2025

Safe Schools Policies in California:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KXR_gWCaq0DmvQLcQpdpLUfp4pBF-00_uK4uS7vtR0g/edit?tab=t.0

How might I protect myself when engaging in sensitive communications online/texting/emails?

- Recommendations from the ACLU:
<https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/some-steps-to-defend-against-online-doxxing-and-harassment>
- Surveillance self-defense: <https://ssd.eff.org/>