

From the Massachusetts Attorney General

School Response to Potential Immigration Enforcement Activities

GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. EPS personnel will not inquire about a student's immigration status, or require documentation of a student's legal status, such as asking for a green card or citizenship papers — during the registration process or at any other time.
2. EPS personnel will not require students to apply for Social Security numbers.
3. EPS personnel will not make unreasonable inquiries of a student or his/her parents for the purpose of exposing the immigration status of the child or his/her family.
4. Any allegations of bullying or harassment of students based on their race, ethnicity, color, national origin or immigration status shall be promptly investigated and handled in accordance with EPS policy.
5. District personnel shall be attentive to school curricula to ensure that it is inclusive and nondiscriminatory. All District curricula shall encourage respect for the civil rights of all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.
6. District personnel shall promptly report any potential or alleged hate crime to the local law enforcement agency.

STUDENT RECORDS

1. Unless directed by the Superintendent, District personnel shall not share student record information, including immigration status, with any immigration law enforcement official or agent.
2. All requests for student records or student record information documents by ICE should be forwarded to the Superintendent, who may consult with the District's legal counsel to determine if the documents can be released.
3. Principals may remind families of their right to opt out of disclosure of student directory information.

ACCESS TO EPS PREMISES

Because an ICE visit may severely disrupt the educational setting, any request by ICE to visit a school site should be forwarded immediately to the Superintendent's Office for review before a decision is made to allow access to the site. Warrants, court documents, paperwork, etc. will be vetted for authenticity.

In the potential event that an immigration law enforcement agents arrive at one of our schools, Principals shall take the following steps:

1. Do not allow the agents into the school building until instructed to do so.
2. Request identification from the agents and a copy of any judicial warrant.
3. Immediately contact the Superintendent's office for further instructions.

DISMISSAL OF EPS STUDENTS

1. Students may only be dismissed to persons specified by parents and/or guardians in writing. Principals, please remind families to update student emergency contact information to include a robust network of persons who may be called in case of an emergency.

2. Parents may be provided with a Caregiver Affidavit (available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/caregiver-authorization-affidavit/download>) to designate someone to make educational and/or medical decisions for a child if the child is temporarily living with someone who is not the parents/guardians.

HANDLING OF STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS HAVE BEEN DETAINED OR TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

If you receive notification that parents/guardians of a student have been detained or taken into custody by immigration law enforcement officials or agents, the school should take the following steps:

1. Contact the person(s) listed on the student's emergency card to inform the person(s) of the situation and ask if they can pick up the student.
2. Plan for school counselors to be available to support the student.
3. Contact the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if there is no responsible adult authorized by parents to pick up the student.
4. Consult with the EPS homeless liaison if the student becomes homeless because of their parent/guardian's detention.