



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS AND THE THREAT OF DEPORTATION

### **i** All children have a right to a public education

Under federal law, all children, regardless of their citizenship or residency status, are entitled to a K-12 education, including college counseling services. School districts that either prohibit or discourage children from enrolling in schools because they or their parents are undocumented immigrants may be in violation of federal law.

### **i** What the law says about deportation and schools

ICE officers and agents are to refrain from enforcement actions at least at the following locations and events:

- schools (including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities, and other institutions of learning, such as vocational and trade schools);
- hospitals;
- churches, synagogues, mosques and other institutions of worship, such as buildings rented for the purpose of religious services;
- during funerals, weddings and other public religious ceremonies; and
- during public demonstrations, such as a march, rally or parade.

### **i** What the law says about sharing student information with immigration authorities

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools are prohibited, without parental consent, from providing information from a student's file to federal immigration agents if the information would potentially expose a student's immigration status. For more on FERPA, see [familypolicy.ed.gov/ferpa-parents-students](http://familypolicy.ed.gov/ferpa-parents-students).

### **i** Schools must be safe havens, welcoming places of learning, and free from racism, discrimination, and the threat of deportation.

School districts are responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of all their students. Educators and school support staff can work with community allies to reaffirm that their school and campus is a safe zone.

## Do's and Don'ts for students and their families if ICE authorities come to their homes

- ➔ **Do not open the door.** ICE authorities cannot come in without a signed judicial warrant. Tell them to pass the warrant under the door before you open it.
- ➔ **Remain silent.** ICE can use anything you say against you in your immigration case, so claim your right to remain silent! Say **"I plead the Fifth and choose to remain silent."**
- ➔ **Do not sign.** Don't sign anything ICE gives you without talking to an attorney.
- ➔ **Fight back!** Get a trustworthy attorney, contact a local immigrant rights organization and explore all options to fight your case. If detained, you may be able to get bail—don't give up hope!

## For more resources and information, contact:

- ➔ **American Federation of Teachers**  
[www.aft.org/immigration](http://www.aft.org/immigration)
- ➔ **Share My Lesson**  
[www.sharemylesson.com/immigration](http://www.sharemylesson.com/immigration)
- ➔ **Colorín Colorado**  
[www.colorincolorado.org/immigration](http://www.colorincolorado.org/immigration)
- ➔ **National Immigration Law Center**  
[www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)
- ➔ **United We Dream**  
[www.unitedwedream.org](http://www.unitedwedream.org)
- ➔ **First Focus**  
[www.firstfocus.org](http://www.firstfocus.org)

