



Protecting Immigrant and Refugee Students – Information for RCSD Staff

Guidance from the State of New York

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia issued a joint press release on February 27, 2017, to advise school districts on protecting immigrant students, reaffirming that schools across New York State will remain safe havens where all students can learn. The guidance provides districts relevant information pertaining to their duties under the law with respect to their students and the confidentiality of student records.

Two important points to note:

- Undocumented children, like children who are U.S. citizens, have the right to attend school full time as long as they meet the age and residency requirement established by state law.
- If you receive inquiries from representatives of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”)—including requests to meet with/interview students, or to obtain access to student records—please contact the Law Department at 262-8412, [Steve Carling](#), [Cara Briggs](#) or [Karl Kristoff](#) immediately upon the request.

[The full guidance is available here](#), on the New York State Education Department website at www.nysed.gov.

What do I say to students?

The [Teaching Tolerance website](#) addresses how students may be impacted by President Trump’s orders on immigration and refugees. Included are facts and additional links for educators to engage in productive conversations in classrooms and schools. www.tolerance.org

Additional Information for Families

NYS Hotline

Governor Cuomo has launched a state hotline to assist immigrants affected by President Trump’s executive orders. The phone number is [1-888-769-7243](tel:1-888-769-7243), and provides assistance in many languages.

Refugee Center Online: <https://therefugeecenter.org>

Justice for Immigrants: <http://justiceforimmigrants.org/>

Community Forum with Legal Aid Society and Catholic Family Center on March 11

Attorneys will be present to assist refugee families with any questions or issues in regard to the new executive orders or any other legal question.

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 am at Rochester International Academy, 1 Edgerton Park