



Immigration Enforcements Guide for Students and Families



**Los Angeles County
Office of Education**



Toolkit Purpose:

As summer approaches, it is important for families to be prepared for any potential changes in immigration circumstances. This Immigration Toolkit is designed to provide students and families with practical guidance and resources to help them stay informed, organized and supported during the summer break. It includes steps for creating a family preparedness plan, tips for safeguarding important documents and connections to trusted local organizations offering legal and community support. Whether you're traveling, enrolling in summer programs or simply planning ahead, this toolkit can help ensure your family's safety, stability and peace of mind.





Your Educational Rights:

- Supreme Court Case [Plyler vs Doe](#): You have the right to attend school no matter your immigration status.
- **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**: Your personal information is private.
- Schools cannot release student information to immigration authorities without a signed warrant or subpoena and legal review.
- Families have the right to receive school information in their primary language.
- Students who are experiencing disruptions such as [housing instability](#) have the right to enroll in school immediately even if they lack documents.
- Students and families can file complaints through **Uniform Complaint Procedures**.





Family Preparedness:

- Prepare a [Family Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Talk to your family](#) about what to expect if a raid occurs, what to do and where to go.
- Know who your trusted adults are and how to contact them.
- Set aside funds for legal fees, toiletries and food in case of detention.
- Determine who will care for you and how finances will be managed if a parent is detained or deported.
- Document any specific instructions for designated guardians.





Organize Important Documents:

Keep copies of these documents in a safe place and be sure to provide copies to trusted contacts:

- Birth certificates
- Passports or IDs
- Visas
- Medical info
- Caregiver paperwork
- Immigration-related documents





Emergency Contacts:

- Designate a trusted individual (or several) who can be reached in case of detention or deportation.
- Establish how family members will communicate during a crisis and who will be the point of contact for legal support.

Keep a written copy in a safe place, not just on your phone:

- Full names, birthdays, and A-numbers (if any) for you and your family.
- Emergency phone numbers for trusted adults, legal contacts and doctors.





Know Your Rights:

- Familiarize yourself with your rights during an encounter with ICE, including the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney.
- If immigration agents come: stay calm.
 - Do NOT answer questions.
 - You can say: "I choose to remain silent." or "I want to speak to a lawyer."
 - Ask to see a judge-signed **judicial** warrant.
 - **Do NOT open the door without a judge-signed judicial warrant.**
- View the difference between [judicial warrants](#) [vs immigration warrants](#) and learn more about [what to look out for](#) and how to respond.





Know Your Rights Resources:

- [National Immigration Law Center](#): Know Your Rights resources for detained individuals.
- **National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)**: [Know Your Rights App](#) available in 19 different languages.
- View red cards from the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#).
- [Office of Immigrant Affairs](#) - connects immigrants with resources, services and legal protections.
- [Office of The County Counsel](#) - provide legal representation and guidance on county matters.
- [Immigrants Are Los Angeles](#) - created centralized resources hub for immigrants.





School Emergency Contacts:

- Make sure your emergency card at school is updated.
- Know which staff (teacher, counselor, principal) you can talk to.





Avoid Scams:

- Protect yourself from immigration fraud.
- If you need immigration assistance, only licensed attorneys and federally accredited representatives are authorized to provide you legal advice and represent you in immigration matters.
- Notarios Publicos are NOT lawyers.
- [Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#)





If ICE agents show up while you're in your car:

- Pull over safely if stopped by law enforcement
- Ask the law enforcement officers to identify if they are highway patrol, police or ICE agents by showing their badge
- If it is an ICE agent, you have the right to remain silent and not offer any information
- Keep your hands visible on the steering wheel and provide law enforcement or highway patrol officers requested documents such as your license and registration. If you can identify they're ICE agents, remain silent and do not provide any information.
- You can say, "I do not consent to a search," if they ask to search your car. Officers may still conduct a search if they believe it contains evidence of a crime





What Happens if ICE Agents Stop Me in Public:

- You have the right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions.
- If agents want to conduct a search of you and your belongings, you have the right to refuse the search saying you do not consent. An agent may “pat down” your clothes if he or she suspects you have a weapon.
- You can ask, “Am I free to leave?” If the agent says yes, calmly walk away.
- You may record interactions to document any violations of your rights.
 - **TIP:** Carry a [Know Your Rights card](#) and hand it to the officer instead of speaking.
 - View more guidance from [Immigrant Defense Project](#).





What Happens if ICE Agents Come to My Home?

- **Do NOT open the door** - ICE cannot enter without a valid judicial warrant. A real warrant must be signed by a judge (not ICE) and have your correct name and address.
- **Ask ICE to slide the warrant under the door** or show it through a window to verify its validity.
[View Judicial Warrants vs Immigration Warrants](#)
- **You have the right to remain silent** – Do not answer questions. You do not have to answer ICE's questions.
- **Do NOT sign anything** – If you don't fully understand what it means, do not sign it without speaking to a lawyer.
 - View more guidance from [Immigrant Defense Project](#).





Contact Legal Support:

- Call your emergency caregiver.
- Contact legal aid organizations.
 - [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#)
 - [LACOE Legal Resources List](#)
 - [California Department of Social Services](#)
- Tell a trusted teacher, counselor or principal what's happening.





Locate Family Member:

- Use the **ICE detainee locator:** locator.ice.gov
- Corazon Norte: How to Find a Loved One in ICE Custody – [English](#) & [Spanish](#) Guides
- [Immigrant Defenders Law Center](#): Legal representation for detained immigrants.
- Rapid Response Legal Resource Hotline: 213-833-8283
 - Monday – Friday
 - 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - English and Spanish





Protect Your Rights:

- You don't have to answer questions about your family's status.
- You can say: "I choose to remain silent." or "I want to speak with a lawyer."
- If immigration officers approach your family, always ask to see a judge-signed warrant.





Stay in School:

- Keep your routine as much as possible.
- Let your teachers or counselors know if you need extra time for schoolwork or flexible academic accommodations.
- Talk to school counselors.
- Join support groups if your school has them.





Take Care of Yourself:

- Stay connected to trusted adults and friends.
- Mental health support is available:
 - [988 Lifeline](#) - 24/7 suicide and crisis lifeline
 - [BrightLife Kids](#) - Free behavioral health support 888-275-5357
 - [LAUSD Telehealth](#) - Mental health services provided virtually, during school hours and/or at home, at no cost to families

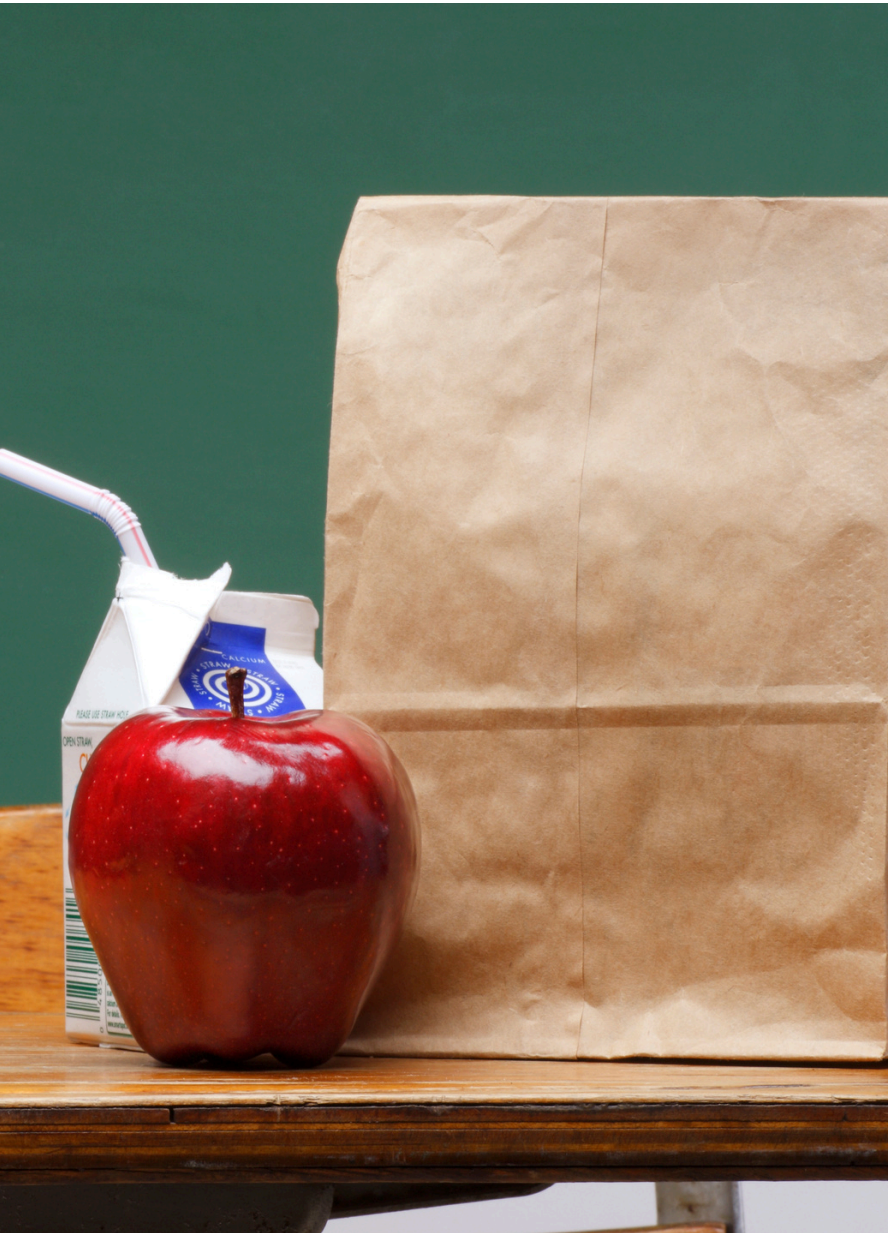




Community Resources:

- Connect with community-based organizations that can provide emotional support, resources and advocacy.
 - [211LA](#) - offers comprehensive support for disaster recovery, housing navigation, advocacy, and referrals to other services.
 - [Medi-Cal Enrollment](#) - provide support for food, cash aid and health coverage benefits.
 - [School on Wheels Tutoring Program](#) - free tutoring for students experiencing homelessness or living in group home settings
 - [Stitch](#) - find enrichment programs in L.A. County.





Free Summer Lunch Program:

- [City of Los Angeles Parks](#): June 13 through August 2, 2025 (ages 1-18).
- [L.A. County Library](#): June 16 through August 8, 2025 (ages 1-18).
- Meals served onsite during lunch hours.

Food Assistance:

- [SUN Bucks](#): \$40/month for food (June - August 2025)
 - Most families are auto-enrolled.
 - No impact on immigration status.Helpline: 877-328-9677

Food Banks in L.A. County:

- [Food banks](#) available across 8 service areas. Check local food bank websites.
- [L.A. Soup Kitchens, Food Pantries and Food Banks](#) - find emergency food programs.





Transportation Assistance:

- **GoPass** Free Metro rides for K-12 and Community College students through Sept. 30, 2025.
 - Get TAP card from your school.
 - Activate online or by phone within 14 days.
 - Lost card? Contact your school admin to replace and re-activate.
- **Metro LIFE** - You may be eligible for 20 free rides every month on Metro or a discounted pass on another participating transit agency.





Housing and Shelter Resources:

- [Shelter App, Inc.](#) connects youth and families to local shelters and services.
 - Covers L.A., Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and more.
 - Access via app or website.
- [Homeless Shelter Directory](#) - a list of shelters in California. Please call ahead for availability.
- [Rent Assistance Program](#) - view a list of rental assistance.
- [LACOE's Homeless Ed Padlet](#) - resources for families facing homelessness and housing insecurity.





Employment Resources:

- [Youth at Work](#): for L.A. County residents ages 14 to 24.
- [Hire LA Youth](#): designed to provide a starter job for youth 14 to 24.
- [Youth Employment Opportunity Program](#): helps at-risk youth between the ages of 15 and 25 reach their school and career goals.





Wildfire Resources:

- **BAILA Wildfire Resource Guide** ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) – Contains info on financial aid, housing assistance and legal resources for immigrant communities impacted by wildfires.
- **[DCBA Disaster Relief Funds](#)** – Funding opportunities and assistance available for wildfire recovery.
- **[LA County Disaster Recovery](#)** – A central hub for disaster assistance, providing info on emergency aid, housing and recovery resources for those impacted by wildfires.





Contact Us:

- To request a workshop or informational session to educate students and families on their legal rights, contact Fredy Ruiz, Immigrant Relations Coordinator, 562-419-5275 or ruiz_fredy@lacoed.edu.
- Visit LACOE's [Immigrant Relations](#) webpage for more information.

