

As a school district, we work every day to ensure a welcoming, safe, and inclusive environment for all students. We hope the information below can help our families and students who may have questions or concerns about the recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in our surrounding area.



How are Appleton Area School District staff, counselors, and social workers supporting students who may be affected by ICE?

Students who are experiencing trauma or stress are encouraged to reach out to a staff member. School counselors and social workers will continue to work individually with students to support their needs as necessary. In addition, all staff continue to reassure our students that their safety is our top priority.

We also made our staff aware of the recent media coverage surrounding ICE activity, so that they are informed and able to support all of our students. Our staff and teachers will continue to provide support as needed.

What is the status of undocumented students at public schools?

Under Federal law, school districts are required to provide all children with equal access to public education at the elementary and secondary levels. All students are entitled to public education, regardless of immigration status. The United States Supreme Court held in the case of *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), that a State may not deny access to a basic public education to any child residing in the State, whether present in the United States legally or otherwise.

Has this issue affected student attendance?

We have not seen increased absences at any of our schools.

What are the questions/fears from families you would like to address?

We want our families to know that we will continue to provide a safe and secure educational environment to all students regardless of immigration status. If families or students have any concerns, we encourage them to talk with a trusted adult at their school.

Are ICE agents allowed on school grounds?

As communicated within ICE policy, schools are designated as *Sensitive Locations*. This includes licensed daycares, preschools, early learning programs, primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools up to and including colleges and universities; as well as scholastic- or education-related activities or events.

Because schools are *Sensitive Locations*, arrests, interviews, searches and immigration enforcement-related surveillance on school property by ICE is prohibited. ICE agents may enter a school to request records (only with written parental consent) or to serve subpoenas or court orders.

Will the district withhold student information if ICE agents inquire about immigration status?

The District will continue to comply with state and federal laws related to pupil record laws, if ICE agents request student records and/or documentation. Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), schools are prohibited from providing student information without parental consent or consent from eligible students. Per the Department of Public Instruction website, "A school district may disclose personally identifiable information from a pupil record under three circumstances: 1) written consent from a parent/guardian/adult pupil; 2) receipt of a court order; or 3) by authority of statute." ICE agents may not execute administrative warrants on school property and the District will not provide student information, including immigration status, or student records without proper consent, as described above.

Are Appleton area schools considered *sanctuary schools*?

Our district does not have a Board policy regarding *sanctuary schools*.