

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL

May 6, 2025

**Ensuring Access to Education for Immigrant Students**

Early this year, the federal government rescinded a long standing "sensitive locations" policies<sup>1</sup> that limited immigration enforcement actions out of respect for the special nature of certain places—such as schools, houses of worship, and essential service providers. Federal officers are now able to conduct enforcement activities at these locations with far fewer precautions and safeguards.

Since this decision, educators across the country have been grappling with fear among students and parents that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will

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<sup>1</sup> On January 20, 2025, the new Administration announced it was rescinding a policy put in place under President Biden, specifically, the Memorandum from Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, "Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas," (Oct. 27, 2021)(replacing agency policy over two decades: Memorandum from John Morton, Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations," (Oct. 24, 2011)). This directive was released eleven days later in a memorandum issued by Caleb Vitello, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, entitled: "Common Sense Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas" (Jan. 31, 2025).  
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show up at schools to execute deportation raids. In fact, immediately following the announcement, in Los Angeles County (County), K-12 schools reported declines in school attendance, some by as much as 30%.<sup>2</sup>

Specifically, last week, teams of Homeland Security agents entered the front office of two Los Angeles Unified School District school campuses: Russell Elementary School and Lillian Street Elementary School.<sup>3</sup> The agents requested information about the welfare of four students attending Russell Elementary and requested to speak with one student at Lillian Elementary. Following LAUSD policy and protocols, the two school principals asked the agents for identification and a judicial warrant to enter the school. Absent a judicial warrant, the agents' requests were declined.

Our schools are mandated by federal law to ensure that no student is denied enrollment or faced with barriers to their educational opportunities based on their or their family's immigration status.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is important to reinforce that all students continue to have the right to a public education, regardless of their immigration status. That is why the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has worked with school districts across the County to offer resources to immigrant students and their

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<sup>2</sup> Li, Jinge, [LASchoolReport, "LAUSD Faces Growing Concerns Over Trump Immigration Policies | LA School Report](#), (Mar. 19, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Dale, Mariana and Brenneman, Ross, LAist, "Homeland Security Agents Attempted to Enter 2 LAUSD Schools. Here's What Families Should Know," (Apr. 10, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> In *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) 457 U.S. 202, 215-216, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution for a state to discriminate against undocumented children by denying them access to a state's system of free public K-12 education.

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families. This includes: 1) training educators on immigration-related concerns; 2) developing toolkits for districts, educators, and community-based organizations; 3) providing Know Your Rights trainings; and 4) offering options for remote learning.

Despite these efforts, it is clear that recent federal actions have had a chilling effect on the immigrant community, with many afraid to attend school or work for fear of an immigration enforcement action. These fears are having an impact on student mental health as well, with service providers reporting an increase in demand and it is also not clear whether resources offered by LACOE are being utilized evenly across all school districts, meaning some students may lack access to alternative instruction depending on where they attend school. With additional immigration action likely under the current federal Administration this week and in the immediate future,<sup>5</sup> it is imperative that Los Angeles County stand by its commitment to provide education to all children, regardless of immigration status, and work with families who have been deterred by changing federal policy from sending their children to school.

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<sup>5</sup> See Alien Registration Form and Evidence of Registration (90 Fed.Reg. 11793)(interim final rule effective April 11, 2025).

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**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request the Superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, in partnership with the Office of Immigrant Affairs, to:

1. Survey all school districts in the County to determine which have adopted alternative instruction options, provided Know Your Rights presentations to students, parents, and school staff, staff, and offered mental health support services;
2. Ensure that Know Your Rights presentations and outreach materials are provided in a manner that is responsive to the language, cultural, and immigration-related needs of parents and students; and
3. Report back to this Board in 14 days in writing with a plan to ensure students across all County school districts have access to alternative learning options and Know Your Rights trainings. The plan should include technical assistance for impacted school districts to help secure necessary permits for possible student transfers.
4. Report back to this Board, in 14 days in writing with data on Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) and LACOE's Mental Health Unit program utilization rates, identification of mental health service gaps, and recommendations for ensuring equitable access to mental health support for students.

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support legislation and/or policy proposals that would expand access to alternative instruction options (i.e. online learning, student transfers, etc.) for students who have been deterred from attending school by federal immigration enforcement activities.

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