

Supporting Communities Through Increased Federal Immigration Enforcement

Chicago Public Schools

December 2025



Chicago
Public
Schools

CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICE

Lessons Learned / Guiding Principles

- Focus on what you can control
- Set the boundary
- Traveling to-and-from school is #1 issue
- Accuracy over speed
- Centralized intake and output
- Use your community-based partners and their expertise
- Project confidence and calm

Proactive INTERNAL Preparedness

- Set clear protocols for Principals, School Clerks, and Security Staff for the following scenarios and support with training:
 - Interactions with federal agents
 - Incident on school grounds or near school
 - Incident in the surrounding community
 - Student stranded due to detention of parent/guardian
- Create master google doc (editable by central office staff so school leaders have most-up-to-date information)
- Set up centralized hotline for receiving calls from SCHOOL LEADERS — not public

Proactive EXTERNAL Preparedness

- Establish comms response protocol
 - Be clear who needs to sign off vs. who just needs to be aware
 - Create template letters for schools to send home to families; proactively translate templates to cut down on time when the moment comes
 - Create rapid response email group to make sure everyone's in the loop
- Create centralized web page with information — Aggregate resources from other government partners, CBOs and nonprofits doing work
- Establish attendance policy and work with staff to make sure Google Classroom or similar tool is in use to support students who are absent
- Support principals with generic comms tools

Response Protocol

- Incident Reported
 - Direct to Safety Center if report came to another department
- Safety Center notifies local law enforcement, senior leadership, and comms
- Comms creates letter based on best-available information, circulates internally for signoff and awareness
- Once approved, comms provides letter to school leader, works with school leader to edit and translate if necessary
- After letter is sent, media team provides letter in lieu of formal statement

Activity Near School

If federal agents are on school property or on the same block as the school during arrival or dismissal: Call CPS Safety Center Hotline

The CPS communications team will also be notified to provide support.

Arrival:

- Welcome students and staff into school as they arrive; if federal representatives attempt to enter the school, defer to regular guidance for this scenario.
- If necessary, without causing alarm, staff should direct students and families to another entrance to drop off their student(s) at the school.

Dismissal:

- Immediately bring students and staff inside the building and initiate a Soft Lockdown:
 - Use judgment re: letting parents/guardians into the building
 - Secure exterior doors
 - Do not allow anyone in or out of the building until the area is clear.

Activity in the Community

- **Call the ICIRR Family Support Network and Hotline:
855-435-7693**
- Support available in English, Spanish, Korean, Arabic, and Polish
- Monitor activity in case it approaches school grounds

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DUE TO ICE DETENTION, OR
TO REPORT ANY SUSPECTED ICE SIGHTINGS, CALL

855-435-7693

 **ILLINOIS COALITION
FOR IMMIGRANT
& REFUGEE RIGHTS**

Visit icirr.org/fsn for
hotline and Know
Your Rights info

¿Necesita ayuda? Llame a nuestra línea
directa de apoyo familiar
1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY

Immigration-Related Resources

cps.edu/immigration

- **DOES NOT** ask for our families' immigration status
- **WILL NOT** coordinate with federal immigration enforcement agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- **DOES NOT** share student records with ICE or any other federal representatives, except in the rare case where there is a court order or consent from the parent/guardian
- **WILL NOT** allow ICE agents or any other federal representatives access to CPS facilities unless they produce a criminal judicial warrant signed by a federal judge

Resources for Families

Downloadable Student and Family Resource Packet (October 2025) [[ENGLISH](#) | [SPANISH](#)]

Know Your Rights



Legal Resources



Tips for Traveling To-and-From School



Emergency Family Preparedness



Applying for Financial Aid for Higher Education



Mental Well-Being



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Know Your Rights & Family Preparedness Workshops

Tuesdays @ 2pm	The Resurrection Project will be hosting bi-weekly virtual Know Your Rights workshops. Tuesday sessions will be in English . REGISTER
Thursdays @ 6pm	The Resurrection Project will be hosting bi-weekly virtual Know Your Rights workshops. Thursday sessions will be in Spanish . REGISTER
Wednesdays @ 6pm	The Mayor's Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights (IMRR), in collaboration with the Resurrection Project and the Chicago Public Library, will be hosting virtual Family Preparedness Plan workshops. Weekly sessions will be in Spanish . REGISTER
Bi-Weekly Wednesdays @ 11am	The Mayor's Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights (IMRR), in collaboration with the Resurrection Project and the Chicago Public Library, will be hosting bi-weekly virtual Family Preparedness Plan workshops. Bi-weekly sessions will be in English . REGISTER
Tuesday Dec. 2 @ 10am	The Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) will be hosting a virtual Know Your Rights workshop through the CPS Network 7 Parent University. This session will be in Spanish. MEETING

Family-Facing Deck for Principal Presentations

- Family-facing deck
- English and Spanish
- Includes space for you to add local resources in your community



Media Relations

- Media team often supplies community response letter in lieu of official statement
- If media arrives at school, CPS:
 - Sends a staff person to manage media
 - Enforces keeping media coverage in “the public way” (sidewalk) vs. on school grounds
 - Advises principals and District leaders regarding participation in any news conference



Q&A



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