



# Supporting Immigrant Families Today: What Can Schools Do?



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# Far-reaching Impact

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- Students
- Parent(s)
- Extended family
- Friends
- Teachers
- Entire school *community*





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What impact on students  
and families do you see  
in your school or  
district?



# Federal Laws and Policies

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- Under federal law, all children, regardless of citizenship or residency status, entitled to K-12 education
- ICE agents cannot take enforcement action on school grounds, including adult ed sites
- Schools cannot release personal info about a student without consent of parent or self (over 18)





# Support Families in Crisis

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- Draw on your knowledge of supporting families dealing with trauma
  - Source of stability
  - Consistent routines
  - Listening ear





# Build Relationships

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- Remind families school is safe place
- Visit families at home – not just for problems
- Provide opportunities for honest discussions
- Be a supportive listener –  
**Do not offer legal advice**



# Connect to Resources

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- Flyers on immigrant rights
- Information sessions with immigrant rights specialists
- Pro-bono attorneys
- Physical and mental health resources



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# Help Prepare for *What If?*

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- Parents must gather legal documents
  - Birth certificates
  - Health records
- Make Family Plan
  - Plans for child
  - Guardian
- Teachers can provide emotional support



# Organize School Support

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- ID staff as key point of contact on immigration
- ID bilingual parent who can provide support
- Create Immigrant student support team
  - ELL teacher
  - Counselor
  - Administrator





# Join Community-wide Coalition

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- Collaborate with organizations focused on
  - Cultural or religious communities
  - Immigrant advocacy
  - legal services
- Be part of "Rapid Response Team"



Northern CA Rapid Immigration Response Network



# Continue with Efforts to Engage Families in Education

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- Value parents as first teachers
- Communicate with notes, texts, phone calls
- Listen to family's insights
- Class and school-wide social events





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