



STUDENT AND FAMILY Immigration Supports

Our schools are and will always remain safe places where every child—regardless of immigration status—is welcomed, valued, affirmed, validated, respected, and loved.

Dr. Thomas Taylor, Superintendent, December 2024

KEY FACTS:

- » Under federal law, all children, regardless of their citizenship or residency status, are entitled to a K-12 education, including college counseling services.
- » Schools are prohibited, without parental consent, from providing information from a student's file to federal immigration agents unless they have a subpoena.
- » Immigrant families have rights and should ensure that they know them.



What happens if ICE or any other non-local law enforcement agent comes to the School?

Building administrators have a strict protocol to follow if an ICE agent or any other non-local law enforcement agent comes to a school to inquire about a student(s). Families will be contacted in the event of such an inquiry or occurrence.



Will schools share family information with ICE or any other non-local law enforcement agent?

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), **schools are prohibited, without parental consent**, from providing information from a student's file to federal immigration agents unless they have a subpoena.



How can families prepare?

Families with immigration status concerns should have an emergency plan in place and designate a trusted family member who can care for their children in case of an emergency. Please read the Standby Guardianship resource to learn how to create an emergency plan.



Standby Guardianship Information



(CUT OUT & SAVE)

Understand Your Rights This is a sample of a Rights Card provided by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. Consult an immigration attorney for your specific circumstance.

You have constitutional rights:

- **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR** if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.
- **DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS** from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING** without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- **GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT.** If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

Community Partners

The following community organizations provide support to families:

Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center – The Gilchrist Center is a gateway for Montgomery County's immigrants. The center provides information and referrals to programs and services offered by government agencies and community organizations. Call them at: 240-777-4940. (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/immigrant-rights/)

CASA in Silver Spring – CASA de Maryland is a non-profit organization that provides legal services and advocacy for low-income immigrants in Maryland. A key area of focus is around immigration law. They provide legal assistance with various immigration matters, such as, applications for citizenship, family-based immigration petitions, asylum and refugee applications and deportation defense. Call them at: 240.491.5763. (www.wearecasa.org/maryland/)

Lutheran Social Services in Silver Spring – Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) is a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of social services in Maryland and the surrounding region. Key areas of focus include family support programs and immigration services, such as refugee resettlement and immigration legal services. Call them at: (202) 723-3000. (www.lssnca.org)

The program of **Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH)** is to make homelessness a rare, brief, and non-recurring event by operating from a Housing First philosophy. SEPH provides a full continuum of services including housing stabilization, homeless diversion, and permanent housing. (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness/)

Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA) in Baltimore, MD- MORA coordinates and administers services to federally recognized refugee populations, offering employment services, health assistance, youth programming, and English language training. (www.dhs.maryland.gov/maryland-office-for-refugees-and-asylees/)

International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Silver Spring- IRC provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture and other immigrants to thrive, offering support in resettlement and integration. (www.rescue.org/united-states/silver-spring-md)

Ayuda in Silver Spring – Ayuda offers legal, social, and language services to help low-income immigrants access justice and transform their lives. (www.ayuda.com/legal-services-4/)

Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Center (IROC) in Gaithersburg, MD- IROC offers resources and support for immigrant and refugee families, including assistance with training and mentoring through programs like the Moving Up Fund. (www.irocenter.org/programs-for-immigrant-and-refugee-support-dmv)

Catholic Charities – Located in Silver Spring and near Wheaton, the Catholic Charities Center serves anyone in need living in Montgomery County. As a gateway to the many programs and services of Catholic Charities, the center welcomes families who are vulnerable and in crisis. (www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/program/catholic-charities-center/)



For More Information...

