

Welcoming Schools Campaign

Maria Sotomayor

#Stopthehate Call 4|6|18

Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition

Project Background

How it Started

- ▶ Student and Parents' *fear* of being targeted by ICE
- ▶ Concerns about bullying and discrimination
- ▶ Keeping ICE out of K-12 public schools
- ▶ Protecting student and parent information from ICE

Goals of the Toolkit

- ▶ Empower the community to create change in schools
- ▶ Promote action steps to protect student and parent rights
- ▶ Show teachers, school administrators, and school board members how they can help
- ▶ Give voice to parent and student concerns

Information Gathering

- Speaking with students, parents, teachers, and advocacy groups
- Interviews with school administrators and school board members
- Studying school board resolutions and policy statements
- Legal Research

“It makes me happy to know that good people care about our well-being and goals without even knowing us. Thank you!”

- 12th Grader, Age 18

Toolkit Breakdown

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Toolkit Parts

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can ICE enter schools?
- Do schools have to give information to ICE?
- What do schools do in the case that a parent of a student is detained?
- What steps can schools take to protect students?

Toolkit Parts

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ Taking Action
 - ▶ Sample “Welcoming Schools” Resolution

Welcoming Schools Campaign

Sample Resolution

- ▶ All schools within this district will be a welcoming place for students and families to seek help, assistance, information, and safety if faced with fear and anxiety about immigration enforcement.
- ▶ Information about this resolution will be shared by schools to all faculty, parents, and students in multiple languages. Schools are also tasked with training employees on how to implement these policies.
- ▶ Any request by ICE for student information from any K-12 public school will be denied.
- ▶ Any request by ICE to have access to a school will be immediately directed to the Superintendent who will make a decision as to whether or not to grant the ICE official entry into the school.

Toolkit Parts

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ Taking Action
 - ▶ Sample “Welcoming Schools” Resolution
 - ▶ Alternative Resolution
 - ▶ Sample Policy Statement

Welcoming Schools Campaign Sample Policy Statement

In this District, we take the responsibility for providing a quality free public education to all children very seriously. We stand with all students, regardless of immigration status. In addition, this District will not condone bullying, discrimination, or any sort of animus against its students, parents, and community members on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, or immigration status. We will work to ensure that all students and parents feel welcomed and accepted by taking affirmative steps to address issues with bullying and to work with the community to provide language support for families who need it.

Toolkit Parts

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
- ▶ Taking Action
 - ▶ Sample “Welcoming Schools” Resolution
 - ▶ Alternative Resolution
 - ▶ Sample Policy Statement
 - ▶ Steps to Pass a School Board Resolution
- ▶ Additional Resources
 - ▶ Know Your Rights
 - ▶ Organizations Serving Immigrant Communities
- ▶ Appendix
 - ▶ Legal Memo
 - ▶ Copies of Sample Resolution & Policy Statement

How to Use It

- ▶ Activate the community
- ▶ Talk to your school about backing this campaign
- ▶ Get your principals to put in some protocols
- ▶ Get school board members to sponsor the resolution and policy statement
- ▶ Share this toolkit with friends and family members across the state

Welcoming Schools In person Training

Pittsburgh, PA

Casa San Jose

Thursday, April 19 from 6:30-8:30 PM

**2116 Broadway Ave, Pittsburgh, PA
15216**

Register: <https://bit.ly/2H6hndF>

Questions?

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Breakout Discussion

How do you see yourself getting involved in this campaign? What steps do you think you can take to be a bigger part of the advocacy for immigrants' access to education in your community?

How do you create connections within your community? Who are good resources who you can reach out to? Create a list of resources you know already.

How will you convince other members of your community that taking steps to protect immigrants rights in K-12 schools is important? What are some points you could raise to make them care?

How do you start a conversation with school administrators or school board members about your ideas related to immigrant rights and education?

What difficulties do you anticipate you might face when approaching the school board in your district? How might you address those difficulties?

Role Play!

Present the school board resolution to the school board member

Reflection

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Thank You!