



# Standing United

## to Protect the Rights of Immigrant Students and Their Families

### Do you know your *Plyler* rights?

The law is clear. All students, regardless of immigration status, have the right to a K-12 public education. Denying children residing in the United States a public education based on their immigration status, or the perceived status of their parents or legal guardians, is illegal.

Public schools are prohibited from doing anything to deny, deter or chill access to that constitutional right, including by reporting, or threatening to report, children to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These principles have been established by the Supreme Court in *Plyler v. Doe* and other federal laws and cannot be changed by the secretary of education, the attorney general, states, local law enforcement, school districts, a single school or any individual.

It is imperative that all school district officials and their employees understand that if they report students to ICE or otherwise discriminate against them on the basis of national origin, they could face liability for violating the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Titles IV and VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the constitutional rights of their students.

Schools must be safe havens and welcoming places of learning, free from discrimination, racism, bullying and the threat of deportation.

The American Federation of Teachers and its partners stand ready to work with school district employees to ensure that they understand and are in compliance with the applicable laws. If you believe that a school district or employee is violating a student's *Plyler* rights, contact the AFT's human rights department at [afthumanrights@aft.org](mailto:afthumanrights@aft.org) or call the AFT legal Department at 202-393-7472.

For additional resources to support immigrant youth and their families, visit [www.aft.org/immigration](http://www.aft.org/immigration).

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. • Washington, DC 20001 • 202-879-4400



# Partner Organizations

