



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

More Than a Remarkable Education

Student Nondiscrimination and Immigration Information

As clearly stated in the Arlington ISD Board Policy, “the AISD prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law.” Among other things, this means the district has served and will continue to receive and serve immigrant children regardless of their immigration status.

It is important to understand that the AISD is a safe place for learning, not a tool for immigration enforcement. The AISD has taken several steps to ensure our school district is a safe place, including:

- Requesting multiple emergency contacts upon enrollment to ensure students are released to safe homes
- Following an emergency management plan to determine a safe location for children to wait until an appropriate adult caregiver arrives
- Keeping open lines of communication with federal, state and local officials to advocate for the needs of our students
- Sharing with students and parents in multiple ways that school is a safe place for students and that schools don’t keep or share records about immigration status and do not play a role in immigration enforcement
- Following FERPA guidelines that state that student records other than directory information may not be disclosed without parental consent

If immigration authorities go to a school seeking access to a child, employees first ask law enforcement officers for verification of identity and legal authority. If the officer has a warrant or similar court order to take the child into custody, school employees must comply. If the officer is using the school as a place to conduct an investigation, the employee will ask the officer to wait until the student has noninstructional time and parents are notified. Federal immigration enforcement policy calls for investigators to avoid using schools and other sensitive locations for enforcement activities, including interviews.

All students must meet the same state eligibility requirements for public school admission. Laws are very specific about the documentation required to enroll, but the AISD will not deny a child enrollment solely for failure to provide documentation proving identity or previous school records. In some instances, it is the school district’s obligation to notify law enforcement of the discrepancy in case the student has been reported missing.

Upon enrollment, students will be given access to all relevant educational programs and services, including English language learner programs, special education services, free and reduced price lunch, and more.

The AISD parent and community engagement department works with local agencies and schools to present information on immigration and related topics. Please call 682-867-7715 for more information.