



Dear Superintendents and Administrators,

An executive order signed last week by President Trump allows federal immigration officers to enforce immigration laws in locations previously designated as “sensitive areas,” including schools. We appreciate hearing from those of you who have reached out for guidance.

While current federal policies are evolving, there are still guidelines in place to assist Idaho’s public schools’ leaders, as these questions arise in your districts and charters. These guidelines should continue to inform policy and procedures when addressing concerns about immigrant students and families. The U.S. Department of Education has the following fact sheet, related to school enrollment, on its website: [Information on the Rights of All Children to Enroll in School.](#)

All children in Idaho are eligible for enrollment in our schools. Current federal and state laws provide that all children in the United States have an equal right to enroll and participate in public elementary and secondary schools. Idaho’s public schools must follow the current law and, as such, provide access to public education to any child residing in the state.

Idaho’s public schools do not collect and have not been required to gather information related to the immigration status of students or their family members. Historically, schools have not been allowed to ask questions about immigration status. Because the information is not collected, it cannot be provided to any law enforcement agency. Further, as when responding to any request for student data, schools must continue to follow the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Idaho Code section 33-133.

Idaho school districts and charter schools should already have procedures in place for any request to access a student. As always, reach out to your respective legal counsel for support and guidance if presented with legal documentation.

If you choose to engage with concerned families and provide legal information, please work with your respective attorneys when creating official communication. We will continue to follow updates to these federal policies. Thank you for all that you do to keep our families informed.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Critchfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.