



CITY OF NORWALK
Skylar Eagle
Digital Content Administrator
Seagle@norwalkct.gov
Norwalk City Hall
125 East Avenue, PO Box 5125
Norwalk, CT 06851
Norwalkct.gov

For Immediate Release

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Letter to the Community on Federal Immigration Policy

(Norwalk, Conn.) Recent changes to federal immigration policy have removed schools from the list of locations traditionally considered sensitive for immigration enforcement. These changes have understandably prompted concerns within our community. The safety and well-being of every student in Norwalk Public Schools are at the core of our values. We want to make clear that Norwalk Public Schools and the City of Norwalk welcome all resident children into our schools without consideration of race, religion, creed, gender, physical or intellectual disability, socioeconomic status, or immigration status.

Connecticut has a number of laws in place to protect students in this matter. The [Multilingual Learner Bill of Rights](#) states that all students have the right to attend public school, regardless of immigration status. Connecticut's [Trust Act](#) limits the authority of local police departments to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Non-local law enforcement officials, including ICE agents, are expected to present a valid judicial warrant. At this time, there is a low likelihood that ICE agents will attempt to enter schools with a valid judicial warrant.

Norwalk Public Schools has issued [guidance regarding non-local law enforcement and ICE actions](#). The district follows several guidelines including prohibiting access to school facilities, students, or records without legal authority, requiring judicial warrants in order to enter school property, and initiating an immediate legal review with counsel upon the arrival of ICE agents or non-local law enforcement. Access to school facilities, students, or records will not be granted without explicit authorization from legal counsel and the required warrants.

The Connecticut Department of Education has also issued guidance for public K-12 schools pertaining to immigration activities which [can be found on their website](#).

The City of Norwalk has many community partners who are ready and able to provide assistance and support to families who have questions or are in need of resources. Please contact the [Community Resource Hub](#) in our Department of Community Services at (203) 854-7999 or 2-1-1 to seek assistance. Translators are available in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

Sincerely,

Harry Rilling
Mayor, City of Norwalk

Dr. Alexandra Estrella
Superintendent, Norwalk Public Schools

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