

Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students



Every Child Deserves a Safe, Supportive Education

"Our schools are here to nurture, educate, and protect every student, regardless of their background."

Your Child's Rights Are Protected

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, we believe education is the foundation for opportunity and growth. Every child, regardless of immigration status, is entitled to free public education. This right is guaranteed under the landmark Supreme Court decision Plyler v. Doe (1982).

VIDE is committed to ensuring every student has access to a safe, nurturing environment where they can thrive.

VIDE's Pledge to Families

- **Confidentiality First:** VIDE has a commitment to privacy. No personal or family information will ever be shared with immigration authorities unless required by a valid court order, subpoena, or warrant.
- **Resources You Can Count On:** VIDE provides ongoing training to staff to uphold student rights and to respond compassionately to any concerns families may have.
- **Comprehensive Training for Staff:** VIDE equips employees with step-by-step protocols to handle ICE interactions professionally and lawfully.
- **Social and Emotional Well-Being:** School counselors provide support to help students and staff navigate feelings of stress, fear, or trauma.
- **Regular Communication:** Parents and guardians will always be informed of policies, procedures, and resources to ensure transparency and trust.



"Transforming Today's Learners Into Tomorrow's Leaders"

Empowering Your Family



For Parents and Guardians: Empowering Your Family

- **Update Emergency Contacts:** Keep your child's emergency contact information current at school and include trusted adults authorized to pick them up in case of an emergency.
- **Talk to Your Children:** Let them know they are safe at school and explain steps they can take to remain calm in stressful situations.
- **Prepare a Family Plan:** Keep critical documents in a safe place and identify trusted individuals who can act on your behalf if needed.
- **Stay Connected with Your School:**
 - . Make sure your child's emergency contact forms are updated regularly.
 - . Communicate any concerns or changes in contact details promptly.
- **Create a Preparedness Plan:**
 - . Identify trusted individuals who can care for your child in your absence.
 - . Discuss who your child should contact and what steps to take in unexpected situations.
- **Support Your Child Emotionally:**
 - . Talk openly about their rights and reassure them that their school is a safe space.
- **Keep School Identification Ready:** Ensure your child always has their school ID or a photo saved on their phone.

Community Resources to Empower You

- **Know Your Rights Materials:** Learn how to handle interactions with immigration authorities.
- **Family Preparedness Plans:** Step-by-step guides to help families prepare for emergencies.

https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/family_preparedness_plan.pdf



Guidance for Handling ICE Visits at Schools

Protecting Our Schools as Safe Havens for Learning

"We stand by your children to ensure they can focus on learning without fear."

For School Administrators and Staff

Your role in creating a safe environment is critical. When immigration authorities visit, follow these steps to ensure the safety and rights of our students:

1. Verify Credentials:

- . Politely request identification, agency name, and the purpose of the visit.
- . Administrators and staff should forward warrants and legal documents to the Superintendent's Office who will then share with the Office of Legal Counsel.

2. Contact Leadership Immediately:

- . Notify your Insular Superintendent for further guidance.
- . Do not allow ICE agents to directly access students without proper authorization.

3. Handle Requests Privately:

- . Escort agents to the main office and limit their access to other areas of the school.
- . Refrain from confrontational interactions to avoid disruption.

4. Protect Privacy:

- . Do not release any student information, educational records, or personal details without legal approval.

Together, We Create Safe Schools

Every student deserves a safe, nurturing place to learn. At VIDE, we are committed to upholding the rights of all students and protecting the sanctity of our schools.

"Transforming Today's Learners



Into Tomorrow's Leaders"