



Welcoming and Supporting All Students



December 17, 2024
Presentation for School Leaders





Welcoming and Supporting All Students

- Introduction: HPS Serving Children and Families
- Know Your Student's Rights
- Supports and Resources for Families
- Resources for Staff and Partners



Our Schools Celebrate Diversity and Prioritize Safety for All Students

- Ensuring that our schools are safe places for students, staff, and visitors is our highest priority. We want every student fully participating in all our programming and ready to learn in a safe environment.
- Our mission is to inspire and prepare ALL of our beautiful and capable students to meet success in and beyond school. We are proud of the diversity of our school district, made up of multiple cultures and more than 80 spoken languages.
- We will continue to serve all children and families, regardless of immigration status, in order to fulfill our mission and comply with our legal responsibilities. It is important to note that **Hartford Public Schools does not collect immigration status information from any of our families.**



Our Schools Celebrate Diversity and Prioritize Safety for All Students

- Today we'll share our guidelines on protecting immigrant students and their families at Hartford Public Schools, following the guidance provided by our school district, the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut.
- Ensuring the safety of our students is our highest priority, but we also have a duty to foster a positive learning environment that is free from intimidation, bullying or persecution.
- And we have an affirmative duty to stop any and all threats to our mission to educate children.
- To this end, today we count with the advice of Attorney Ben Haldeman from the New Haven Legal Assistance Association.



School facilities limitations to ICE enforcement as “sensitive locations”

- Schools, churches and hospitals were characterized as “sensitive locations” according to ICE policy established in October 2011 by then Director John Morton.
<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>
- The ICE “sensitive locations” policy remains in effect as of today’s date, preventing enforcement actions in such locations with some exceptions:
 - (a) exigent circumstances exist
 - (b) other law enforcement actions have led officers to a sensitive location; or
 - (c) prior approval is obtained.
- When we think about it, this policy makes a lot of sense to protect the well-being and safety of everyone in our school facilities, and to ensure a healthy, NOT fearful, learning environment.



School facilities limitations to ICE enforcement as “sensitive locations”

- We have no record of previous immigration enforcement actions taking place in violation of this policy since the establishment of “sensitive locations” in 2011.
- However, if ICE officers were to show up at your school in pursuit of enforcement actions against any person, make sure to follow the guiding principles shared in our [one-pager for school leaders](#).
- Don't forget that EVERY student –as do ALL individuals– living in the United States has certain inalienable rights, regardless of immigration status, and it is our duty to protect them.
- The district is prepared to support your school, students, staff and families as soon as you reach out to the Superintendent's office for assistance.



Hartford's Immigrant Rights Law Protections

- In 2008 the City of Hartford passed a law [protecting Hartford residents from being asked about their immigration status.](#)
 - Hartford residents have access to city services regardless of immigration status.
 - Hartford's children have the right to educational services regardless of immigration status.
 - Hartford residents who report crimes (as victims or witnesses) to the Hartford Police will not be asked about immigration status.



Hartford's Immigrant Rights Law Protections

- In 2008 the City of Hartford passed a law protecting Hartford residents from being asked about their immigration status. ([continued](#))
 - If a Hartford police officer or any other Hartford employee finds out a resident's immigration status, the information will be treated as confidential. Residents will NOT be reported to federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
 - No Hartford resident will be detained by the HPD solely because of immigration status.



Connecticut's Trust Act to Protect Undocumented Immigrants

- The [Trust Act](#) sets conditions for state and local law enforcement authorities for voluntarily cooperating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials seeking to detain and deport undocumented immigrants.
- It was created in an effort to strike a balance between assisting ICE agents when it serves the interests of public safety, and maintaining effective relationships between state and local law enforcement officials and those who live in the community.



Connecticut's Trust Act to Protect Undocumented Immigrants

- Modifications to the Trust Act were made in 2019, including:
 - prohibits law enforcement from detaining someone solely on the basis of a civil immigration detainer unless the person is guilty of the most serious felonies, is on the terrorist watch list, or a judicial warrant has been issued;
 - limits law enforcement sharing with ICE; and
 - requires law enforcement to inform an individual when ICE has requested their detention.



Education, Basic Needs and More

Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants

CIRI is a statewide nonprofit agency that provides legal and social services to immigrants and refugees in Connecticut to help them become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community. CIRI'S broad services range from helping new arrivals meet their most basic needs including adequate food and shelter, to English classes, refugee resettlement, job training, job placement, counseling, translation / interpretation, and legal assistance.

- Email: immigration@cirict.org
- Address: 75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 2-180 Hartford, CT 06106
- Phone: 860-692-3085



Education, Basic Needs and More

The American Place (TAP) at Hartford Public Library

As part of Hartford Public Library's information hub for the community, The American Place connects newcomers with City services and resources to facilitate resettlement, education, and career transitions. They offer a robust English language program, immigration and citizenship services, Adult Education, financial literacy and workforce readiness programs.

- Phone: 860-695-6337
- E-mail: tap@hplct.org
- Website: <https://tap.hplct.org/immigration/>



Case Management, Basic Needs & Behavioral Health

Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)

IRIS helps newcomers with services and support critical to their transition to self-sufficiency and to making local communities across the U.S. their home. They share local resources and provide case management support.

- Hartford Office Details: 25 Main Street Hartford, CT 06106 Phone: (203) 562 – 2095
- Email: info@irisct.org
- Website: <https://irisct.org/iris-resources/>



Case Management, Basic Needs & Behavioral Health

Catholic Charities: *The Institute for the Hispanic Family*

The Institute for the Hispanic Family is an invaluable resource of services available to Spanish-speaking residents in Greater Hartford. People from all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to participate in programs that serve senior citizens, children, families, and anyone in need of assistance for problems associated with behavioral health or a lack of basic needs.

- Phone: 860-527-1124
- Website: <https://www.ccaoh.org/how-we-help/ihf/>
- Address: 45 Wadsworth Street Hartford, CT.



Legal Services

Greater Hartford Legal Aid

Greater Hartford Legal Aid is a non-profit organization that provides a range of free legal services to low-income residents who live in the greater Hartford area. GHLA provides legal Immigration assistance for immigrant victims of crimes. They provide services in Adjustment of Status, Consular Processing, Employment authorization, Naturalization/Citizenship, U visas, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions.

- Phone: 860-541-5030
- E-mail: referral@ghla.org
- Website: <http://www.ghla.org/>



Legal Services

Center For Latino Progress (Legal Immigration Services)

The Center for Latino Progress provides legal, linguistically, and culturally competent services, to the growing legal permanent resident population in the area. The Center has been practicing legal immigration services and submitting applications/documents to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), for the last 10 years.

- Phone: 860-247-3227
- Website: <https://ctprf.org/services/immigration-services/>
- Address: 95-97 Park Street, Hartford, CT 06106



Legal Services

Connecticut Legal Services

Connecticut Legal Services, a statewide organization that provides legal representation and counseling to low-income Connecticut residents, is prepared to provide legal aid to undocumented and low-income immigrants. They also offer an immigration legal advice hotline.

- Phone: 1-800-798-0671
- Website: <https://ctlegal.org/>



Resources to support traumatized students

[Strategies and Resources to Support Trauma-Informed Schools](#)

“A trauma-informed school promotes a safe and welcoming environment while also recognizing the widespread impact of trauma. This approach includes the integration of trauma-informed principles with various aspects of a school’s policies and actions.”

[Classroom WISE](#)

This training package assists K-12 educators and school staff in supporting the mental health of students in the classroom and offers evidence-based strategies and skills to engage

and support students experiencing adversity and distress.

[Helping Youth After Community Trauma: Tips for Educators](#)

This tip sheet lists common reactions educators might see in students following a community trauma. It describes how traumatic events can affect students’ learning, behavior, and relationships.

[Introduction to Trauma-Informed Classrooms](#)

Background on trauma and student trauma, recommendations on practices educators can use to create safe learning environments, and additional resources for other strategies.