



Guidance on Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Anticipated Activities in Washington County, MD February 6, 2026

THIS HANDOUT PROVIDES GENERAL INFORMATION, NOT LEGAL ADVICE.

Always follow WCPS procedures and directions from school administration and district legal counsel. *Educators are not immigration enforcement officers.* Your role is to protect student safety, privacy, and stability. Direct enforcement matters to your school principal or other school or district administrator.

What Maryland Guidance Says

- Maryland schools are **not open-access spaces** for immigration enforcement.
- ICE generally needs a **judicial warrant** (signed by a judge) to access non-public areas or students.
- **Student records and personal information are protected** under FERPA and Maryland law.
- All children—regardless of immigration status—have the right to attend public school.

REMEMBER:

- Educators should not act independently in enforcement-related situations.
- When in doubt, pause and share concerns with the administration and/or contact WCTA.

If ICE Appears on Campus

If immigration enforcement officers arrive at a school building or campus, teachers and other educators should immediately notify the principal or designated administrator. Administrators are responsible for verifying identification, reviewing any judicial warrant or court order, and contacting district leadership and legal counsel before granting access.

WHAT TO DO

- Stay calm and professional
- Notify your principal immediately
- Redirect ICE to the main office
- Continue supervising students
- Protect student privacy
- Document and report concerns

WHAT NOT TO DO

- Do not physically block law enforcement
- Do not argue legal authority
- Do not interpret warrants
- Do not share student or family information
- Do not ask about immigration status
- Do not spread rumors or speculation

If a Student Asks You to Be Harbored or Hidden

Students experiencing fear or crisis may ask educators for help that goes beyond our legal role. While it is appropriate to provide emotional support, educators should not agree to hide, transport, or harbor a student or family member. Doing so could place both the educator and the student at legal risk. Instead, reassure the student, remain with them if appropriate, and immediately notify school administration, a counselor, or a social worker so proper support can be activated.

If a Student Stops Coming to School Due to Immigration Fear

- Fear of immigration enforcement can result in increased absenteeism or sudden withdrawal from school. Educators should document attendance concerns and follow WCPS attendance and student support protocols.
- Teachers may notify counselors, administrators, or pupil personnel workers so the school can engage in supportive outreach. The focus should remain on student well-being and access to education—not on immigration status.

Student Privacy and Records

Student records, including addresses, schedules, contact information, and immigration status, are protected under FERPA and Maryland law. Educators should not release information without legal authorization reviewed by district counsel.

Remember: You are protected when you follow WCPS procedures, uphold student privacy, and act within your professional role. When unsure—pause, document, and escalate concerns to a school administrator, WCTA representative, or district leadership.