

Community Consolidated School District 46

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Students of Undocumented and Immigrant Families

Q: How will the President's recent executive orders on immigration affect my child or my family if we do not have lawful immigration status?

A: The effect of these executive orders is not yet clear. If you have questions regarding how the changes could impact you, it is best to consult with an immigration attorney.

Q: how does my child's immigration status or my immigration status affect my child's ability to attend school?

A: Immigration status has no effect. All children, regardless of a child's immigration status or the immigration status of that child's parent, have the right to a public education at the primary and secondary levels. Equal access to public education, including the ability to attend school and graduate upon completion of high school, is required under the Constitution and federal law. The U.S. Department of Education's website contains additional information about this right. The American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa has also prepared additional information about this right.

Q: How does Community Consolidated School District 46 ensure that no student or family is discriminated against or harassed because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin?

A: CCSD 46 has a Diversity Policy as well as a School Board policy that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, linguistic differences, exceptional abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, variations of talents and abilities and special needs in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices.

The CCSD 46 Board of Education is committed to providing a safe school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect.

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Q: What should I do if I feel like I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment?

A: Individuals who feel like they have been the victim of discrimination or harassment should report the incident to a school official. Questions may be directed to building principals or the Superintendent's office.

Q: Can CCSD 46 ask about a child's immigration status?

A: No the District may not question a child about his or her immigration status or demand to see proof of legal immigration status.

During the enrollment process, parents must present the following documentation:

- Proof of the child's date of birth (for example, birth certificate, adoption record);
- The child's immunization records;
- Educational history information (for example- name and address of school child previously attended);
- Proof of address (for example- rental agreement, utility bill, or other document showing the family's current residence).

A child **does NOT need a social security number** to be enrolled in our District.

Q: Could the District ever share our child's immigration status with the federal immigration officials?

A: No, the District will not share students' immigration status with federal immigration officials for the purpose of enforcement of the immigration law. Individual students' educational records are protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The District's policy on Student Records can be found on the District's website.

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Q: Will my child lose eligibility to ride the bus to school, for free or reduced-priced lunch, for special education services, for ELL, etc.?

A: No. A child's immigration status has no effect on the child's eligibility to ride the bus to school. A child's immigration status similarly has no effect on the child's eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, eligibility for English Language Learning help, or eligibility for special education services.

Q: Where can I learn more about my immigration rights?

A: You should contact an immigration attorney for accurate advice about your immigration rights. To protect your rights and avoid scams, **rely only upon advice from attorneys or persons with verifiable training or experience in immigration law and procedures.**