



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 22, 2025  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: School Business Administrators, Principals, School Leads  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services  
Ambrose F. Duckett III, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Field Support and Services

## **Guidance on School-Related State and Federal Requirements Pertaining to Immigrant Students and Families**

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is unwavering in its commitment to ensuring that every student, regardless of immigration status, national origin, or religion, can attend public school safely. Under the Supreme Court's ruling in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), public schools are constitutionally obligated to provide all children with access to free public education, emphasizing that educating undocumented students is not a choice but a legal responsibility. In response to inquiries from school leaders across the state who share this commitment, the NJDOE has developed a new [webpage](#) that provides guidance and resources designed to help school staff understand and adhere to State and Federal requirements related to immigrant students and families.

In addition to the many resources designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey students provided by the Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning (OSPEP), the guidance on this webpage is designed to support school officials, staff, and communities in safeguarding the physical and emotional well-being of students and their right to attend New Jersey's public schools.

The website includes considerations for planning and preparing for immigration enforcement activities in schools as well as resources for students and families experiencing deportation-related trauma. This is a non-exhaustive resource collection, and the NJDOE will continue to update the webpage as new resources become available.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group