

## Legal Resources

The following is a list of a various legal organizations serving the Los Angeles area. It is important that families seek legal advice from reputable organizations and lawyers who specialize in particular legal matters. For your protection, it is not recommended that you seek assistance from "notarios" who are not licensed to practice law.

**Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project**  
1530 James M. Wood Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Ca 90015  
(213) 251-3505

**Detainee Rights, Asylum applications, Removal hearings, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, T visas, U visas**

**Immigrant Defenders Law Center**  
634 S Spring St., 10th Floor  
Los Angeles, Ca 90014  
(213) 634-0999

**Adjustment of Status, Asylum applications, Family-based petitions, Removal hearings, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, T visas, U visas**

**Human Rights Project**  
201 S Santa Fe Ave., Suite 101  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 680-7801; [judy@igc.org](mailto:judy@igc.org)

**Adjustment of Status, Asylum applications, Consular Processing, DACA, DAPA, Employment authorization, Employment-based immigrant and non-immigrant petitions, Family-based petitions, Habeas Corpus, NACARA, Naturalization/Citizenship, Removal hearings, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, T visas, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, VAWA**

**Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles**  
5228 Whittier Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90022  
(213) 640-3883

**Representation before Immigration Court, Representation before Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Federal Court Appeals**

# Know Your Educational Rights



**El Rancho Unified School District**

*Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened  
the fabric of American life. —*

## Education is a Right

All students, including those who are undocumented, have a right to attend public school in California. Undocumented students have the right to, and should be able to enjoy a learning environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, violence, and intimidation.

**On February 21, 2017, the El Rancho Unified School District Governing Board Adopted Resolution No. 30-2016/2017 – SAFE HAVEN SCHOOL DISTRICT IN**

### SUPPORT OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Whereas, the Board of Education embraces the need for diversity of our students and families, the rich language and cultural assets they bring to our District and strongly supports and encourages the participation of all parents and families in our schools; and

Whereas, no written state or federal law mandates that local districts assist ICE in the enforcement of immigration laws;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved,** that the Board declares its commitment that every District site be a safe and welcoming place for all students and declare the El Rancho Unified School District a safe haven school district for all students, families, and community.

## You Have the Right

◊ **Enroll your child at any public school.** The 1982 Supreme Court Case *Plyler vs. Doe* held that all children have a Constitutional right to access a free public education regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents. Per Board Resolution No. 30-2016/2017. Every student, regardless of immigration status, will be immediately enrolled in school. If you are turned away by a school, contact Student Services at 562-801-7380.

◊ **Confidentiality of Personal Information.** The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), generally prohibits school districts from providing third parties with student education records. However, there may be exceptional circumstances under which ERUSD could be required to provide pupil records information to federal immigration officials, including the following: 1) if there is a valid subpoena, judicial warrant, or court order; and 2) if there are emergency circumstances, such as confirmed danger to public safety. Otherwise, your personal information is not shared without your consent.

◊ **File a Complaint.** You have the right to file a complaint under the District's Uniform Complaints and Procedures for noncompliance with state and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying. Complaints are protected from retaliation. Complaints under various venues (e.g., UCP's, Special Education Due Process, Title IX) are afforded to all students regardless of immigration status.

◊ **Remain Silent.** You may plead the 5th Amendment and choose not to speak. You don't have to answer any questions or disclose any information regarding where you were born or how you entered the United States. Anything you say to federal immigration enforcement officials can be used against you.

◊ **Not Open your door.** You may talk with an Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officer without having to open your door. They are not allowed to enter your home unless you invite them in, or if they have a warrant signed by a judge. To ensure the validity of the warrant, make sure that it includes your correct name and address.

◊ **A Lawyer.** The language used on legal documents may be confusing or hard to understand, so do not sign anything if you are not certain about what it means. Always speak to an attorney before signing anything given to you by ICE. You may have a lawyer by your side if ICE or other law enforcement officers begin to question you. If you are arrested or detained by ICE, you have the right to speak with an attorney. You also have a right to a court hearing and for a judge to review your case.

## Be Prepared

**Every family should have a Family Preparedness Plan that can assist in an emergency.**

- Regularly update your child's school emergency card.
- Designate a trusted adult that can care for your child if you cannot. Seek counsel from a legitimate legal organization for information on legal guardianship.
- Review with the designated trusted adult their specific roles and responsibilities.
- Securely store all important/vital documents in a location that child and/or assigned caregiver has access too. (e.g., birth certificate/passports, social security card, medical record, insurance card affidavits, ID, etc..)
- Review with designated caregiver/guardian any financial assistance available for the care of your child
- Write down any medical conditions and/or medications of your child
- Make a list of emergency contact information that your child can use for assistance.
- Find out about your immigration options (if applicable). Seek counsel from legitimate legal organization for legal advice and services.
- Review your preparedness plan with your child and the assigned caregiver/guardian.