



Proviso Area for Exceptional Children

SEJA #803

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Cooperating Districts

87 Berkeley
88 Bellwood
92 Broadview
93 Hillside
209 Proviso Township
High Schools

1-24-25

Dear PAEC Families,

We are aware of reports regarding planned mass deportations in the Chicago area starting this week. We want to reaffirm our unwavering support for our community during these difficult times. Events like these can understandably cause great anxiety for our students and their families. Please know that Proviso Area for Exceptional Children (PAEC) remains committed to protecting the rights of all students to access a free and appropriate public education, regardless of immigration status.

Our schools will continue to be safe spaces for every child. We are dedicated to aligning resources to meet the needs of our students as we navigate these uncertain times together.

Supporting Our Students' Well-Being

The safety and well-being of all students are our top priorities. If your child needs emotional support, please contact your child's school principal. Our counselors, social workers, and mental health professionals are available and trained to help students cope with stress and manage their emotions effectively.

Legal Resources for Families

We encourage families to understand their legal rights and protections. As a reminder, there are many organizations in the Chicago area that could supply information to answer any questions that you may have. Here are two:

- 1. Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)**

<https://www.icirr.org>

ICIRR provides legal resources, information on immigrant rights, free consultations, and connections to legal aid.

- 2. National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)**

<https://immigrantjustice.org>

NIJC is committed to protecting the human rights of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Commitment to Privacy and Rights

We understand families may have concerns about data privacy. Please rest assured that:

- Educational records are confidential and will not be shared with immigration authorities unless required by law.
- PAEC **does not** inquire about or require students' immigration status.
- PAEC **does not** coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- ICE agents **will not** be permitted on school grounds unless they present and execute a criminal judicial warrant signed by a judge. In such cases, students have the right to an attorney and are protected under the Fifth Amendment.

Our school administrators have been trained in student rights and protocols to follow in the unlikely event that ICE agents arrive at a school.

Staying Informed

We will keep families updated through the district website, text messages, and emails as new information becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school principal if you have questions or concerns.

Together as a Community

It is imperative that we stand united as a community during these challenging times. Every student in our PAEC family deserves a secure, safe, and caring environment. We are here to support you—every step of the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Executive Director
Proviso Area for Exceptional Children