



Use Your Voice: Safe Schools for All Children

Schools Should Be A Safe Place for All Children to Learn and Thrive

Urge Congress to take action and support the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455/H.R. 1061)



Take Action Alert: contact your Congressional Representative



Schools Should Be A Safe Place For All Children to Learn and Thrive

PTA supports policies that create a safe and supportive school environment for all families and students, including students in immigrant and mixed-status families. We support protecting and preserving public school attendance, student learning, and well-being, which are...

The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455/H.R. 1061) would prohibit immigration enforcement actions by Department of Homeland Security officers or agents at or within 1,000 feet of sensitive locations. This would include public and private schools and other education-related locations, such as pre-schools, Head Start programs, early care and education programs, K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, school bus stops and protection during school field trips.

Public schools are institutions of learning, not immigration enforcement agencies, and should not be placed in the position of determining the legal status of immigrant children nor be required to enforce immigration laws.

PTA believes that schools should first and foremost be a safe and welcoming environment for all students, and not a place where students and their families should have to live in fear of being apprehended by federal agents.

PTA Position Statements:

NATIONAL PTA: RIGHTS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT & MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA: RIGHTS AND SERVICES FOR UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN & CHILDREN OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

PTA urges policymakers to work together to address immigration in a fair, appropriate and equitable way, to provide real solutions that benefit our nation's diverse families. Our association is committed to promoting the safety and well-being of all children, regardless of their immigration status, as well as protecting children from separation from their parents or family members.

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Numerous federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies declare that all school-aged children, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to have access to a high quality and free public K-12 education. In *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), **the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that undocumented immigrants' rights under the U.S. Constitution meant that schools must provide free public education to all students regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents or guardians.**

CA PTA Position
Statement



capta.org

National PTA Position
Statement



pta.org



Local Action for Safe Schools

Schools Should Be A Safe Place for All Children to Learn and Thrive

PTAs are encouraged to include and welcome all children and families to enjoy the benefits of PTA participation, including, wherever possible, hosting all meetings and events at locations that would be designated protected areas under federal, state, and local law.

SUGGESTION FOR LOCAL PTA UNITS AND COUNCILS:

- Contact your School District and ask what a safe school environment will look like this fall. Find out how PTA can support and collaborate.
- Work with your principal, teachers, and school staff to brainstorm and plan welcoming activities so all families can participate. For example:
 - Explore ways to virtually introduce teachers to families who prefer not to attend the first day of school or back-to-school activities.
 - Instead of focusing on projects that celebrate summer activities, create a school-wide mural or other art projects that represent the diverse student body and highlight shared values.
 - Consider hosting hybrid PTA meetings, with volunteer or school district translation, so that all families can participate.

PTAs should work with members of their local school community to safeguard the rights and services for children in immigrant and mixed status families, for example by working to pass Safe Zones resolutions to ensure that school districts have a policy in place for when an authority carrying out immigration enforcement shows up at school.



SUGGESTION FOR LOCAL PTA UNITS AND COUNCILS:

- Your PTA can promote California State PTA's Take Action Alert and encourage everyone in your community to contact their Congressional Representative to support The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (S. 455/H.R. 1061).
- Use the National Education Association's sample [Safe Zones Resolution](#) to create a resolution for your PTA unit or council. Don't forget to bring it to your Association for a vote/approval first!
 - Send the resolution to your school district Superintendent and each of your Board of Trustees members and ask them to adopt it.
 - Attend local school board meetings and sign up to speak at your school district's board of education meeting on this issue during public comment.

Supporting all children by providing access to free high-quality education, food, secure shelter, and healthcare allows them to become contributing members of society. It is in the national interest to ensure all children, including children in immigrant and mixed status families, have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

SUGGESTION FOR LOCAL PTA UNITS AND COUNCILS:

- Your PTA can publicly share (in your PTA-owned newsletter, website, and social accounts) the National PTA Position statement and share PTA's commitment to foster a welcoming and safe environment for all students and families, regardless of immigration status.
- Work with your school district to identify local support services (food, shelter, childcare, medical, legal) for undocumented or mixed status families in your area
- Share them in your PTA-owned newsletter, website and social accounts.

PTA believes that all children, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to access quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services.