



# Taking Action with the RAC to Protect Education for All

## Why are policy changes necessary?

- In January 2025, the Trump administration rescinded a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy that substantially restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents from conducting immigration arrests in or near “sensitive locations” including schools except in exigent circumstances. As a result, ICE officers and agents are now allowed to conduct enforcement actions at schools, including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and universities.
- Over forty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court held in its landmark decision Plyler v. Doe that states cannot deny access to K-12 public education based on immigration status. Yet thousands of students across the country are facing fear of deportation for themselves or their families as they enter their schools every day. According to the [Migration Policy Institute](#), an estimated 98,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools in the U.S. every year. We must ensure that the right to education for all is protected at the local level.
- A critical way to protect all students regardless of their or their parents’ status is implementing school district wide resolutions committing to protect and welcome immigrant students and their families. Sample policy and guidance from school districts across the country can be found [here](#). Here are a few key pieces to include:
  - All children residing in the United States have a right to a public education regardless of their immigration status.
  - All schools should have a preparedness plan in place on how to respond if immigration enforcement officers attempt to enter the space. You can find further guidance from the National Immigration Law Center [here](#).

- Schools are prohibited, without parental consent, from disclosing a student's immigration status to federal immigration agents.
- You can reference [sample policy and guidance](#) from school districts and states around the country.

### **What do our Jewish values say about protecting immigrants and newcomers?**

- No less than 36 times, the Torah instructs us on how to treat the ger, the foreigner among us. God commands, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).
- As told in Genesis, Abraham and Sarah not only allowed three guests to enter their tent, but they also ran towards them and prepared them a meal. This story highlights our duty to show hospitality to the stranger or newcomer.
- Guided by this repeated injunction to love the stranger, the Reform Jewish Movement has long been committed to fixing our fractured immigration system and ensuring just, compassionate, and equitable immigration policies are enacted.

### **How can I contact my School Board members?**

Visit <https://schoolboard.xqsuperschool.org/>. After inputting your address, you should be shown your school district's website as well as the names and email addresses of your school board members. From there, get in contact with your school board to ask what they are doing to promote Education for All in your district, share why this issue matters to you, and reference [sample policy guidance](#) you would like to see implemented.

Please contact RAC Legislative Assistant [Tamara Upfal](#) for more information about model school board policies, how to connect with your elected officials, and the Reform Movement's work on immigration justice.