

**Pawtucket School Department**

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**Office of the Superintendent**

Patricia Royal, Ed. S.  
Superintendent of Schools

February 10, 2025

Dear Pawtucket Public Schools Families,

In the Pawtucket Public School District (PSD), we are proud of our diverse and vibrant community of learners and educators. In accordance with the Supreme Court's ruling in Plyler v. Doe (1982), we are committed to educating all children regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, identity, sexual orientation, or immigration status. We are equally committed to maintaining that our schools are safe and inviting spaces for ALL students to focus on learning, growing, and excelling.

Please know that every child is welcome in our schools. All students have the constitutional right to attend school. We are aware of guidance issued by the Department of Homeland Security that reverses a long-standing policy that prevented federal immigration agencies access to "sensitive areas" such as schools, churches, and hospitals. We are actively reviewing the federal policy changes to understand the implications to our school district. In that respect, I want to remind and reassure our PSD community of our responsibilities and legal obligation to our students and families:

- PSD does not ask for families' immigration statuses.
- PSD will not coordinate with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- PSD does not share student records with ICE, except in rare instances when a court order or parental/guardian consent is provided.
- PSD will not allow ICE agents access to PSD facilities without a criminal judicial warrant signed by a federal judge.
- PSD will not admit ICE agents into schools based on an administrative warrant, an ICE detainer, or any other document related to civil immigration enforcement.

Students are dismissed only to people authorized by parents/guardians in writing. It is important for parents/guardians to make sure their own contact information and the contact information for their student's emergency contacts are up to date. This can be done by speaking with the secretary at your student's school. Each student should have at least two emergency contacts. These individuals do not need to be family members; they can be any trusted adult designated by the student's parent/guardian.

Please know, there have been no sightings of immigration officials at any of our schools and we have no reason to believe that our schools will be targeted. We are sharing this letter to clarify existing policies and how the District would approach interactions with federal immigration authorities. You can also find guidance for schools from the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) [here](#).

Thank you for your continued trust in Pawtucket Public Schools. We value and stand with every student that we serve. PSD has counselors who are available to talk with your student if they experience any anxiety, stress, or fears related to the federal policy changes. If you have further questions or your child needs support, please speak with your school principal.

Sincerely,

Patricia Royal, Ed. S.  
Superintendent of Schools

Pawtucket School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color or disability in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.