

January Update

Schools are Safe Zones – NEA Guidance on Immigration Issues

Immigration and the demonization of immigrants was central to President Trump’s 2024 election campaign, outlined in Project 2025, reiterated in the inaugural address, and reflected in first day executive orders and actions. These new policies can lead to fear and upheaval, mass panic in immigrant communities, and cause undue harm to our students and school environments through increased absences, decreased student achievement, and family disengagement. Our students deserve better.

[Pylar vs. Doe](#) currently guarantees access to public K-12 education regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Dr. Snell reaffirmed the District’s [commitment to our inclusive, diverse, and culturally-rich schools](#) in an all staff message sent on Friday, January 17. He also shared School Board policies and procedures, including [ALL student’s right to attend public schools](#) and how to handle requests to [interview students on school premises](#).

NEA has released a resource, “[Guidance on immigration issues](#)” which includes information on Safe Zones, what to do if an immigration officer attempts to enter a school campus or speak with educators, and how schools can help families prepare for the possibility of mass deportation raids. (See QR code to the right).



What can we do to assist families? The NEA resource provides guidance for educators to consider in safely and effectively advocating for immigrant students’ rights include engaging in activism outside of work and sharing information. [Know your rights: Immigration Enforcement](#). This information covers the right to remain silent (carry a Rights Card* that says you want to remain silent and contact an attorney), and what to do if: an ICE agent appears at your home, you are approached by authorities in a public place/on the street, or pull you over in the car, etc. as well as appropriate planning to consider.

* **RIGHTS CARDS** NEA has shared “[Red Cards](#)” – from the Immigration Legal Resource Center – which are available in 16 different languages. VEA can assist with printing these cards to be placed in an accessible area to increase awareness of all people’s rights REGARDLESS of immigration status. **Please specify language(s) and number of cards requested.**

SPARKS Application Extension

VEA was granted a short extension on our SPARKS reservation. Currently there are 10 spaces available. SPARKS is a weekend of networking, learning, and fun – March 7-9!

VEA sponsors release, mileage, meals, hotel, and all program needs including clock hours. If you are considering attending, [apply today!](#) If we do not fill all of our available spaces, we will not hold this event this year.



Paint and Sip January 31st

Join fellow VEA members for an evening of fun! No artistic talent is required. There is a door charge of \$20, and five lucky participants may win a door prize returning their fee. Painting supplies along with a step-by-step tutorial, your first beverage and food are all provided.

RSVP using link or QR code:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/DSP9RG7



Payment may be made directly to VEA (cash/check) or by contacting Cindy to process via the Square.