



Teachers Guide for Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Students

On Feb. 20, the Austin ISD Board of Trustees passed a resolution affirming that AISD will, “strive to create the safest possible environments for its students and employees, providing them the foundation needed to learn, thrive, seek assistance and information, and reach each child’s potential in an education-focused environment, free of insecurity and fear, for all its employees, students and their families, regardless of immigration status.”

How can I support my students in my classroom?

AISD seeks to empower all teachers to create safe learning environments and help students develop skills for life effectiveness, including their social and emotional skills. To assist in this effort, sample lessons and age-appropriate SEL activities will be provided to teachers. The social studies and language arts departments will also embed more SEL activities and activities about the importance of diversity and immigration into classroom lessons.

Communicating to Students and Families

The district encourages teachers and staff to respond to students’ questions and concerns, especially through the lens of the Social and Emotional Learning competencies. Teachers can respond to students by validating their feelings, emphasizing that schools are safe and referring students and families to support staff on the campus.

If a student has questions regarding additional support services, please connect them speak with a principal, campus counselor, social worker or Parent Support Specialist.

Lesson Plans

SEL lessons are already being sent to SEL coaches, and will soon be available on the SEL website. Should you have any questions about the lessons, contact your campus SEL coach or counselor.

Additional teaching resources can be found here:

- Teaching Resources for ELLs: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/ell-basics/special-populations>
- Lesson Plan Library on Immigration: <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/immigration-to-the-united-states.cfm>

Your campus and district also have departments and staff who can serve as resources:

1. Support for Refugee Students

The [AISD Refugee Support Office](#) in the Department of School, Family, and Community Education serves as a language and resource hub for refugee and asylee students and their families currently enrolled or seeking to be enrolled in Austin ISD schools. Services also include



translation/interpretation for families, school registration support, social and emotional support and staff and community training. <https://www.austinisd.org/immigrant-services>

For support or more information, please contact coordinator Maria Arabbo at 512-414-0545.

2. **Support for Immigrant Students**

The [AISD International Welcome Center](https://www.austinisd.org/immigrant-services), operated by the English Language Learners Team, provides information and support about our schools to students new to the United States. Services include student interviews/screening, school registration support, English proficiency testing and parent/student orientation. <https://www.austinisd.org/academics/ell/iwc>

For support or more information, contact the IWC at 512-414-6426.

3. **Academic Support for Immigrant Students, Including Refugees and Asylees, Who are English Language Learners**

For consultation regarding academic support for enrolled immigrant students who are ELLs, please contact Claudia Santamaria, Assistant Director for Elementary Dual Language, at 512-414-6997; or Dr. Aida Alanis, Assistant Director for Secondary English Language Learners, at 512-414-4611. <https://www.austinisd.org/academics/ell>

4. **Guidance and Counseling Support**

The AISD Guidance & Counseling mission is to implement a comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program in grades preK-12 promoting student success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities, advocacy and social/emotional and career development to meet the needs of the students and community of AISD. <https://www.austinisd.org/schools/learningsupportservices/gc>

For support or more information, contact you campus counselor.

5. **Parent Support Specialists:** <https://www.austinisd.org/parentsupport>

6. **Communities in Schools**

resources: <https://www.austinisd.org/schools/learningsupportservices/cis>

What happens if a student has a parent or guardian being deported or detained?

If the student is currently at school, we want to follow the procedures outlined in the counseling support handbook. The following steps should be followed in the event that a student's parent or guardian is deported or detained:

- Administrator and Counselor verify by contacting the parent, guardian or other family members listed on the AISD emergency contact.
- In the event administrator/counselor is not able to make contact and the student is left on campus, campus administrator would contact Austin ISD Police Department.
- Austin ISD Police would use district student profile to attempt to locate a family member.
- If Austin ISD Police could not locate a family member or individual listed as an emergency contact then AISD Police Department would contact Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Campus counselor and AISD Police collaboratively support the student as they wait for CPS to arrive.



- During this waiting time, Campus counselor provides one on one counseling and review stress/anxiety management steps with student.
- Campus counselor can ask student if there are other willing adult supports that student can share the names of with the CPS counselor.

The following steps should be followed to support the student when and/or if student returns to school:

- Campus counselor provide individual or small group counseling and/or refer to other counseling support on campus (i.e. CIS)
- Counselor completes the AISD Individual Safety Plan with the individual student.
- Safety Plan defines an individual plan when and/or if the student begins to feel stress, anxiety while at school.
- Safety Plan will identify at least 2 willing school support staff.
- Safety Plan will identify at least 2 willing adult supports outside of school.
- Safety Plan will list counseling support hotline number.
- Obtain permission from student to share Individual Safety Plan with student's teachers.

Can ICE or other non-AISD law enforcement agencies enter the campus?

First, we would ask that you please notify an AISD Police Officer and the Superintendent's Office immediately if another law enforcement officer is requesting access to a campus.

The Department of Homeland Security considers schools a “sensitive location” and severely limit the enforcement actions that can go on at these sites. However if any law enforcement officers, including ICE officers, come to the campus, it is recommended that an AISD police officer and/or campus administrator meet them at the door and verify and record their identify. You are able to request ID and proof they have obtained permission to conduct enforcement at a school, such as a written directive by a superior or a signed warrant. Some officers may not necessarily come in an easily identifiable uniform. You are able to request if they are conducting a lawful investigation. You are able to request to see any paperwork they may have to search a certain area or arrest a person. The Superintendent's Office and AISD Legal Counsel are available to support campuses that have questions.

What else has AISD shared with principals, teachers, staff and community?

1. Austin ISD FAQ: Your rights, immigration and resources at AISD:
<https://www.austinisd.org/announcements/austin-isd-faq-your-rights-immigration-and-resources-austin-isd>
2. Other materials have been sent to principals, including a list of resources in different languages and a memo explaining what can be done on campuses: <https://www.austinisd.org/immigration>

Are there resources outside of AISD I can use?

Organizations are allowed to leave information for students and families that meet our Board guidelines in public spaces at a campus, such as the front office or on public notice billboards. AISD does ask that teachers obtain approval for any document that is not created by AISD before it is sent home with students.



The following links provide resources that may be helpful for teachers in answering their own questions or looking to find additional resources.

1. U.S Department of Education Resource Guide: Supporting Undocumented Youth: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf>
2. Austin Public Library Resources for New Immigrants: <http://library.austintexas.gov/nip>

Are there non-profit immigration service providers I can share with students?

Yes, the following organizations are non-profits in the Austin area that provide services for immigrant, refugee and new arrival students and families. Counselors have additional information they can share, and counselors and PSSs may be able to work with students to connect them with the organizations. It is also helpful to remind students that there may be some organizations that are not trustworthy or may be operating scams. For this reason we suggest that all questions regarding outside organizations be directed to counselors and PSSs. Counselors and PSSs can work with families to ensure that an organization is accredited or trustworthy and provide tips and ideas to protect against scams and dishonest organizations.

American Gateways 314 Highland Mall Blvd., St. 501 Austin, TX 78752 512-478-0546 http://www.americangateways.org/	Casa Marienella 821 Gunter St. Austin, TX 78702 512-385-5571 http://www.casamarianella.org/
Catholic Charities of Central Texas 1625 Rutherford Lane Austin, TX 78754 512-651-6100 http://www.ccctx.org/	Justice for Our Neighbors 2105 Parker Ln. Austin, TX 78741 512-270-9883 http://www.jfonaustin.org/
RAICES: Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services 2800 S. I-35 Suite 215 Austin, TX 78704 512-994-2199 https://www.raicestexas.org	Refugee Services of Texas 500 East St. John Ave. Suite 1.280 Austin, TX 78752 512-472-9472 http://www.rstx.org/
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid 4920 N. I-35 Austin, TX 78751 512-374-2700 http://www.trla.org/	University of Texas Immigration Clinic 727 E Dean Keeton St. Austin, TX 78705 512-232-1292