Who We Are

Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC) is a network of immigration service providers working together to fulfill a vision that Houston become a region that respects and advances the rights of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants. We understand that educators and school support staff are on the frontlines of working with immigrant and refugee children and their families. By sharing this resource with you, we can ensure that more communities will have access to immigration legal and social services. HILSC brings its expertise to help educators and school support staff empower students and families to navigate a complex legal system and maintain their rights in a time of increasing anti-immigrant sentiment and policy.

To connect students with social and legal resources, please call the Houston Immigrant Rights Hotline at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664), Monday through Friday during the hours of 9am to 5pm.

Why This Matters Now

Houston is the most diverse city in the country, with 25% of our population being foreign-born. Nearly half of Houston’s 1.7 million children are the children of immigrants, and 250,000 of them have at least one undocumented parent.¹ These children are located across 17 school districts in the Greater Houston Area - they attend both private and public schools, chartered and non-chartered.

Educators have the opportunity to work together with advocates to support our immigrant communities in an era of increasing anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric. The current administration has tried to rescind DACA, threatened to deport immigrant families, and has enacted policies to make it harder for immigrants to gain lawful status. This means teachers’ jobs are complicated by the increased student anxiety around family separation, overwhelmed newcomer students (those new to the country), frustrated undocumented students who face obstacles to attend college, and rising absenteeism because of fear that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) may show up at school.

How Legal Status Affects Your Students

There are a variety of immigration statuses in U.S. law, ranging from undocumented to U.S. citizen, and many in between. A person's immigration status impacts the way in which a student or family engages with the school system, and may influence how the student shows up mentally and emotionally in the classroom.

U.S. Citizen: A person that was either born in the United States or has become a citizen through the naturalization process. U.S. citizens cannot be deported and have all the rights of a natural-born citizen granted by the U.S. constitution. While a U.S. citizen child cannot be deported, their non-citizen relatives could be. There are over a quarter million children in Houston living with an undocumented parent. These children may worry about their parent’s ability to stay in the U.S., causing increased anxiety and depression, difficulty managing emotions, and physical changes from a lack of sleep or eating. Toxic stress in children can have long-lasting harm.


Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR, “green card”): Non-citizens who can stay in the U.S. indefinitely and apply for citizenship through the naturalization process after a few years. However, their status is not as “permanent” as the name implies, and they may be deported in certain circumstances. LPRs have work authorization, social security numbers, are eligible for public benefits, and can get U.S. government ID. LPRs have the right to remain in the U.S., though they could be deported if convicted of certain crimes. Many of these children live in mixed-status households with undocumented relatives. They may worry about their parents’ or siblings’ ability to stay in the U.S. These children may experience fear about their family stability and can suffer from increased anxiety, toxic stress, and depression. This could have deleterious effects on their health and school performance.

- Specialists in the effects of toxic stress on children's brain development: Echo, echotraining.org

Refugee/Asylee: Someone who has left their country and cannot return because of past persecution (or a fear of future persecution) based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Refugees apply for their status in a third country and arrive to the U.S. as refugees, while asylum seekers apply for the status within the U.S. Both refugees and those granted asylum are eligible for some government support. Both can become LPRs and, subsequently, U.S. citizens.

Refugee and asylee children may have experienced traumatic events in their home country and on the way to the U.S., which may have included dangerous travel or refugee camps. Although refugee and asylee children have secure immigration status, they could suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental health disorders based on traumatic experiences.
How Legal Status Affects Your Students

DACA: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is an Obama-era administrative action that gives some protection to undocumented youth who were brought to the U.S. as children. DACA grants work authorization, renewable every two years. Under President Trump’s own administrative actions, no new individual can apply for DACA. However, those who have it can renew it, so long as they continue to meet the requirements.

These students may be frustrated or disengaged when topics of higher education are being discussed. There have been instances of DACAmended youth being deported, despite being promised protection from deportation. Students with DACA may still feel anxiety about their status because they do not have a path to citizenship, and do not qualify for federally funded student financial aid.

* DACA is currently under review by the Supreme Court, which will likely issue a decision by Summer 2020.

Asylum Seeker: A person who is seeking to prove they meet the definition of a refugee (see p.2). Some can apply before the asylum office, but others must apply while facing deportation proceedings. The Trump administration has made it increasingly difficult for those fleeing violence to gain asylum.

Asylum seekers face an uncertain future - for those in deportation proceedings, they may even fear deportation is imminent. As part of the court process, children may have to testify about their past, which often exacerbates their trauma. This unknown future may cause students to feel depressed, unoptimistic, and they make lack motivation to study since they fear they may not be able to remain in the U.S.

Undocumented: Someone who came to the U.S. without documentation (such as a visa) or has overstayed their visa. Some undocumented students may have the ability to change their status in the future, but others will remain undocumented their whole lives unless immigration law changes.

Undocumented students do not have work authorization and cannot obtain social security numbers or Texas driver’s licenses. If they are apprehended by ICE, they will face deportation proceedings. Some students may not know that they are undocumented until they begin the college application process and discover that they do not qualify for federal grants or loans because of their status. These students may become apathetic or frustrated with the education system as a result of the lack of access and resources available to them. Like other children with undocumented family members, these children may fear for their families’ safety as well as their own ability to remain in the U.S.
How Legal Status Affects Your Students

In Removal (Deportation) Hearing: These children are currently in the deportation process in immigration court. They are actively fighting their case and trying to stay in the U.S. The outcomes may vary, but the fate of the student’s ability to stay in the U.S. is unclear and depends on the immigration judge’s final ruling.

These students are likely anxious and stressed as a result of the uncertainty of whether they will be allowed to stay in the U.S. They may be apathetic and frustrated in the classroom until they receive resolution on their case. The average length of an immigration case in Houston is nearly 2.5 years, but cases can take much longer - sometimes even decades. The likelihood a child will win a case is largely dependent on whether that person has an attorney - yet in FY2019, only 23% of children in the Houston Immigration Court had a lawyer.

Unaccompanied Child: When children enter the U.S. alone or without a parent, they are placed in shelters until they can be released to a sponsoring relative or guardian. The agency that houses children often shares the sponsor’s information with ICE - this has led to the deportation of some children’s parents after they claim their child. In 2018, the U.S. government physically separated children entering the U.S. from their parents, rendered them legally “unaccompanied,” and placed them in shelters. The government continues to separate families who enter at the southern border, in certain circumstances. These recent arrivals may be asylum seekers, might have been abused or neglected, or have come to reunite with a parent. For children reuniting with a parent, the transition may be difficult, particularly if they grew up without the parent and resent him or her for leaving. Children who were detained in shelters for extended periods of time may face life-long effects from this detention. These students have experienced trauma and may show signs of depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder in the classroom.


Please note this list of immigration statuses is not meant to be a comprehensive list, as there are many types of immigration status.
Below are three case studies outlining instances when immigration issues overlapped with the school environment. These stories highlight the realities that many families and students live in, as well as the role that educators can play in supporting these populations.

Juan Ortega, a fourth-grade teacher was concerned when he saw one of his strongest high-achieving students begin to disengage from class and “plummet” in his academic performance. Mr. Ortega learned that the boy’s father had been deported and he knew that he had to intervene and provide support to all his students that might need it. Taking action, he attended a seminar on resources for educators when it comes to immigration policy and students’ rights and learned helpful tools and tips to support students and families vulnerable to deportation. The following resources are available in Houston to take similar action:

- Some students and families may want to prepare a Safety and Family Preparedness Plan (Spanish version) in case a relative is deported
  
  Not all families will need this plan and suggesting this plan to children may increase their anxiety. If the child has approached you for help in case a parent is deported, this may be a resource for you. Use your best judgement and remember that community organizations, like HILSC members, can help in times of uncertainty

- Ensure that all students and families have access to Know Your Rights Materials (fact sheet, Red Cards, (Spanish version), and educational videos

- Ask a community partner to host a KYR session at your school by signing up on One Houston

- Provide students and families with a list of Houston Legal Service Providers, navigate AccessHOU, a social service database, to connect students with social services AccessHOU is not a public-facing website, but rather for social workers and other providers to help guide families to the resources

- Ensure impacted students have access to trauma and grief specialists or counseling services

- Connect high school aged learners with United We Dream, to discuss college planning for undocumented and DACAmented students

- Ensure parents know they can add trusted relatives or friends to the school’s approved pick-up list, so their student can be picked up from school in case a parent is detained by ICE.

Is your campus a safe space for immigrant students and families?
Are your colleagues aware of resources and services for students who have been impacted by immigration issues?

Full story found here: https://hechingerreport.org/how-teachers-are-helping-students-affected-by-deportations/
Brendon Krall, a second-year teacher in Houston, said, “I signed up to be an educator to give back to the community, but I never imagined how challenging the role would be.” He knew it would involve a full day in the classroom, late evenings spent grading, and the occasional community event; but as his first year progressed, he realized that external factors, such as national immigration policy, had a huge impact on his students ability to be successful in the classroom. Brendon heard students talk about ICE agents coming to their apartments, family members being deported, and statements involving anti-immigrant rhetoric or stereotypes. In response, he researched immigration issues, connected with local nonprofits, and voiced his support to his students and their families. Teachers like Brendon believe that it is a duty of educators and school support staff to ensure that students have the information and resources they need to thrive inside and outside the classroom. Learn more about the issues and take steps to support immigrant students and families in Houston:

- Learn about current immigration issues: [www.houstonimmigration.org/immigration-blog/](http://www.houstonimmigration.org/immigration-blog/)
- Show your support by displaying inclusivity signs in your classroom and sharing a letter of support to families and students at the beginning of the year ([sample letter here](https://www.houstonimmigration.org/immigration-blog/))
- Create a safe space somewhere on campus where students can access resources and talk to knowledgeable adults about important issues relating to race and other difficult topics
- Connect with [ONE Houston](https://www.houstonimmigration.org/immigration-blog/) to build your capacity for supporting and organizing students (onehoustonaction@gmail.com)

Dennis Rivera, a quiet senior who got good grades and was the captain of his school’s soccer team, was pushed into the school-to-deportation pipeline after an altercation with another student who was bullying him because of his nationality. A school police officer took him to jail; from there, ICE agents detained him because of his undocumented status. Dennis spent two months in an adult detention facility, jeopardizing his ability to complete his high school education and opportunities to go to college. However, his friends and community came together to support him - they pushed for his release, helping him get out of detention, and allowing him to successfully complete his high school education and transition to higher education. Below are resources for students or their family members going through legal proceedings or engaging with ICE:

- Contact the [Immigrants Right Hotline](https://www.immi.org/service/immigrant-hotline) at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664)
  
  The hotline runs Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. If the family has the means to do so, they should hire a private attorney
- Report the encounter to United We Dream via their MigraWatch Hotline at 1-844-363-1423
- If a student is in adult detention, collect Letters of Support to help get the student released
- Attend school board meetings and be aware of potential policies that may impact your students
- Raise awareness about the School-to-Deportation pipeline by sharing this [infographic](https://www.houstonimmigration.org/immigration-blog/) with staff

Agencies Involved in Immigration

Department of Homeland Security (DHS): is the federal department responsible for national security. It houses USCIS, ICE, and CBP, three of the main agencies involved in immigration. DHS was created in 2002, following the 9/11 attacks, and was the largest change to our government’s structure in over 50 years.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP): is a federal agency housed within DHS that serves as the country’s primary border control organization by enforcing immigration law at or within 100 miles of the U.S. borders. Migrants refer to CBP’s temporary housing as “hieleras” (freezers) and “perreras” (dog kennels/cages), because of the dehumanizing and prison-like conditions in which individuals are forced to live.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): the federal agency housed within DHS that enforces immigration law across the U.S. ICE is the agency that apprehends people in the interior, initiates the deportation process, and physically deports people. ICE contracts with private companies to run the four adult detention centers in the Houston area, which house over 4,000 people.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): the federal agency housed within DHS that administers the country’s immigration and naturalization system. If a student is applying for a status change, such as DACA, lawful permanent residence, or a family petition, this is the agency that will decide the application. Depending on the application type, this process could take months or even years. USCIS houses the Asylum Office, which decides affirmative asylum cases and decides whether a recent arrival at the border can continue with the asylum process or will be immediately deported without seeing a judge.

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR): housed within the Department of Justice, EOIR hears all immigration deportation cases in the country. In Houston, there is a detained immigration court in Conroe, and two non-detained courts in Houston (Downtown and Southwest). The average length of a non-detained court case is almost 2.5 years, but cases can take much longer - sometimes even decades. When immigration cases are appealed, they are sent before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), a separate entity also housed within the DOJ.

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR): housed within the Department of Health and Human Services and is responsible for housing unaccompanied minors while they are in deportation hearings. Children who reach the age of majority while in ORR custody are handcuffed, shackled, and transferred to ICE adult detention on their 18th birthday. There are 9 ORR facilities in the greater Houston area, with capacity to house up to 1,025. There have been about 3,695 children resettled in Houston in 2019, following their release from ORR custody.

Note: Several other agencies are involved in other aspects of immigration, such as the Department of Labor and the Department of State.

4 “Immigration Centers in Houston,” HILSC, 2019 https://www.houstonimmigration.org/resources/need-help/#toggle-id-3
5 “Immigration Court Backlog,” TRAC Immigration, 2019 https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/
6 To see the most recent data on children housed in the Houston area, visit: https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2018/texas-migrant-children-shelters/
(1) Can schools discriminate against immigrant children?
No! Over 37 years ago, the Supreme Court struck down a Texas law that tried to deny funding for education to undocumented children (Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)). All students, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to attend public school. Schools are required to make sure all students have equal access to educational resources, including educational services to English Language Learners, and addressing any student bullying based on race or national origin. If you believe that your school is engaging in discriminatory practices or not serving all students, contact the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) or the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas. If you learn of a student who is having difficulty enrolling in school, contact Houston Volunteers Lawyers (HVL) or Lonestar Legal Aid (LSLA).

ACLU of Texas: acluinfo@aclutx.org, (713) 942-8146
MALDEF: info@MALDEF.org, (213) 629-2512
Houston Volunteer Lawyers: info@hvlp.org, (713) 228-0732
Lonestar Legal Aid: (713) 652-0077

(2) Do teachers, school administrators, or school boards have to enforce immigration laws?
No. School officials and teachers are not required to and cannot be forced to enforce immigration laws. In fact, schools may only release student and family information to immigration authorities if a parent agrees, or there is a subpoena or court order for documents about that specific student.

Furthermore, schools may implement policies that forbid their employees from asking about a student or their family’s immigration status. Pre-K-12 schools and private colleges or universities are exempt from SB4 - the 2017 Texas law that forbids government institutions from creating policies that would prevent public officials (such as police officers) from asking someone about their immigration status.

(3) Is ICE likely to enter public schools?
No. ICE has a current policy that they will not conduct enforcement activities at “sensitive locations,” such as schools, school related events, or at school bus stops. However, there are exceptions to this policy, such as: national security or terrorism; an imminent risk of harm to person or property; or danger to public safety. The sensitive locations memo is an internal policy that ICE has the discretion to follow, and is not a permanent protective measure.
(4) Can schools take steps to protect its students from ICE?

Yes. Local school boards can enact policies to protect students against ICE enforcement activities and ensure that schools do not share a student’s or parent’s information with ICE. Schools should not release any child’s information to any entity without a signed judicial warrant with the child’s name and specific information requested. Schools should connect students and families with an immigration attorney if they have received a request directly from ICE.

- Here is a quick guide to tell the difference between an admin and a judicial warrant.

Schools can establish safe spaces on their campus to provide resources and information to students, create plans in case of ICE enforcement against students, and express their support for all families via their schools website, Facebook pages, and an open letter to families from the campus’ administration.

(5) Where can parents and students find out more information about their immigration-related questions?

Students and families can contact the Houston Immigrant Rights Hotline at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664) to get help with general questions about current immigration law and policy; the rights immigrants have under the U.S. constitution; finding free and low-cost immigration legal services from a HILSC partner nonprofit; reporting ICE enforcement activities or hate incidents; and locating and getting legal assistance for people who have been detained. The hotline runs Monday through Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

(6) What do I do if a student tells me they are undocumented?

Students and families will occasionally confide in educators or school support staff that they trust by sharing their immigration status. If a student tells you that they are undocumented, the most important thing for you to know is that you should respect the student by not disclosing this information to anyone else on your campus, unless you believe there is an immediate threat to the child that requires the disclosure. To support the student and their family, you can connect them to the Houston Immigrant Rights Hotline at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664) to ensure they have access to immigration legal services and resources.
(7) What do I do if a police officer arrests a student?

If a police officer arrests a student, do not interfere in the arrest. Prior to the arrest, you may try to de-escalate the situation by talking with the officer and sharing what you observed and suggest an school-based form of discipline instead of arrest. If the student is arrested, you should ask the officer where they will be taking the student and contact the student’s parent or legal guardian. If the student has an immigration issue, refer them to the Houston Immigrant Rights Hotline at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664). If the student already has an immigration attorney, they should contact their attorney immediately. They may also wish to hire a criminal attorney, depending on the charges. As a follow-up to the incident, it would be valuable to talk with your campus administration to learn about the law enforcement student referral policies that your campus follows. This would be an optimal time for school support staff and educators to advocate for de-escalation tactics and mental health assistance to take the place of policies resulting in criminal prosecution of students.

What to do if a student is being arrested: Consult the HILSC School-to-Deportation Pipeline Infographic to identify suggested steps to take at various stages of a student’s interaction with law enforcement.

(8) What do I do if a student tells me one of their parents has been detained by ICE?

If the child has a Family Preparedness Plan, follow the procedures outlined and ensure the child has a safe and comfortable space to wait until they are picked up by the relative or friend who is listed in the schools student database. Please connect them to the Houston Immigrant Rights Hotline at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664) for referrals for legal services and social service support, such as food or rental assistance. If the child would like your support, call the hotline while the child is with you to ensure they get the services they need.

(9) What do I do if I notice a parent has an ankle monitor?

Many immigrants in deportation proceedings must wear an ankle monitor while their case is pending. This is a common occurrence in immigration cases and does not mean that the person has a criminal history. Immigration violations are a civil offense and are separate from the criminal justice system. Depending on the circumstances, you may want to offer that parent a seat near an outlet, in case they need to charge the device. Otherwise, treat them as you would any other parent.
(10) What do I do if a student disclosed that they have an Immigration Court hearing date or an ICE check-in date?

If a child discloses that they are in an immigration proceeding, understand that it is a stressful event and be sure to provide support. A child may act out the day before or the day after an immigration court hearing, so be patient with the child in the classroom. You may want to connect them with a school counselor who can ensure that the child has transportation to court and has presentable clothing to wear for the hearing. Also, be aware that a child’s parent may not be able to attend a particular meeting because of a conflicting immigration appointment. Understand that these appointments cannot be easily changed, thus you should be flexible and reschedule the appointment.

(11) How can I get an undocumented student access to mental health services?

Students that are undocumented or lived in mixed-status households may suffer from depression and anxiety as a result of high stress, fear, and trauma around their immigration status or that of a relative. Depending on the child’s status and previous encounters with immigration law enforcement, the child may have experienced traumatic events and could be dealing with a variety of symptoms related to mental illness. Regardless of the child’s immigration status, they are still entitled to health care and mental health services. To find providers, you can connect them to DePelchin Children’s Center, a non-profit organization that connects children and families to local social services, at (713) 730-2335. Furthermore, it is critical that you ensure that the child is connected to your schools’ counselor or social worker to identify community resources and support services.

DePelchin Children's Center: info@depelchin.org, (713)864-2582
Texas Children's Trauma and Grief Center: Daniel.Martinez@bcm.edu, (832) 822-3829
Communities in Schools: info@cis-houston.org, (713) 654-1515
Family Houston: family@familyhouston.org, (713) 861-4849
The Alliance-Wellness Center: info@TheAllianceTX.org, (713) 554-1890
Local Organizations & Resources

Educator Resources

**Organizing Network for Education (ONE) Houston** is a network of students, parents, educators, and community members who organize through political and social action to bring about educational change. The ONE Houston vision is that all Houston students will have equitable educational opportunities, and all Houston communities will advocate for the evolving needs of their children. Connect with ONE Houston by engaging with their website at [www.onehouston.org/](http://www.onehouston.org/) or by emailing them directly at onehoustonaction@gmail.com.

**Teaching Tolerance** provides free resources to educators — teachers, administrators, counselors and other practitioners — who work with children from kindergarten through high school. Educators use Teaching Tolerance materials to supplement the curriculum, to inform their practices, and to create civil and inclusive school communities where all children are respected, valued and welcome participants. Find materials for your classroom by going to their website at [www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources](http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources).

Colorín Colorado is a national organization that provides culturally competent information to educators of English language learners (ELLs), offering free multimedia materials such as classroom videos, toolkits, multilingual tip sheets, and social media references (and more) to help ELLs meet the new Common Core State Standards. Explore ELL materials and resources that you can use in your classroom by visiting [www.colorincolorado.org/teaching-english-language-learners](http://www.colorincolorado.org/teaching-english-language-learners).

**ImmSchools** is an immigrant led non-profit organization based in San Antonio that works to ensure immigrant and undocumented students thrive in the K-12 education system. ImmSchools partners with k-12 educators to create safe and welcoming spaces for students, and provides professional development opportunities to school staff, such as immigrant-centered workshops. If you are interested in receiving their trainings or hosting events fill out an inquiry request at [www.immschools.org/contact-us](http://www.immschools.org/contact-us).
Local Organizations & Resources

Social Service Providers

Services in your school: Find out if there is a counselor, social worker, or other wrap-around support system that your school offers. **Not all schools will have support, but if your school offers these services, make use of these professionals.**

Communities in Schools (CIS) is an organization that partners with schools to identify challenges students face in class or at home and coordinates with community partners to bring those necessary resources inside the school. CIS can help students connect with immediate needs like food or clothing and more complex ones, like counseling or emotional support. To learn more about their services or to start a partnership, connect with them directly at (713) 654-1515 or www.cishouston.org/contact.

DePelchin Children’s Center is a nonprofit organization that serves the most vulnerable children and families in Texas. DePelchin provides high-quality counseling services to children ages 3-18 and their families who are residents of Harris, Fort Bend, and Waller counties. To learn more about their services visit www.depelchin.org/counseling/. Families must contact DePelchin directly to get services: (713) 864-2582.

Texas Children’s Hospital - Trauma and Grief Center provides care to traumatized and bereaved children, adolescents, and their families across the city of Houston regardless of their immigration status. To schedule an appointment, call (832) 822-3829.

The Alliance Wellness Center is a nonprofit professional counseling and community wellness center that supports the emotional care, behavior health, and mental health needs of all Houston-area residents. The Wellness Center has a comprehensive care team that work with schools and community organizations to deliver wellness services where children learn and where people live. To learn more about their services visit https://thealliancetx.org/wellness-center/. Families seeking services should contact Kenyata Golden, Program Administrator directly at (713) 554-1890.

Family Houston is a nonprofit organization that is focused on creating stronger communities across Houston by providing programs and services to children, families, adults. Family Houston has a staff of caring counselors, financial and employment coaches, and case managers that use a holistic approach to help people empower themselves, stabilize their lives, and sustain lasting improvement. To learn more about their services visit www.familyhouston.org/. To refer a student or family to counseling services, have them contact Family Houston directly at (713) 861-4849.
Immigrant Rights and Advocacy Organizations

**Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative (HILSC)** is made up of 15 immigration legal services providers that help Houstonians with their immigration cases through free or low-cost consultations offered throughout the week. Find help by calling the Houston Immigrant Rights Hotline at 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664) or visit https://www.houstonimmigration.org/locator/.

**Houston Volunteer Lawyers** is a local nonprofit providing free legal aid to low-income Houstonians, regardless of immigration status. They can help with education-related concerns, family law (divorce, child custody, powers of attorney), landlord/tenant issues, and more. To refer a student or family, have them call the HVL general intake number at (713) 228-0732 or visit www.makejusticehappen.org.

**The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas** is a civil rights organization that works to protect the civil rights and individual liberty of all people. If a student or their family member has been discriminated against they can contact the ACLU of Texas by calling them at (713) 942-8146 or by filling out an online complaint form at https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/texas-legal-intake.

**The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)** is a Latinx law firm that fights for the advancement of civil rights for Latinxs and all immigrants. MALDEF actively litigates cases related to the treatment of immigrant children in the classroom. To connect a student or family to their services, call (213) 629-2512, or email info@MALDEF.org.

**United We Dream Texas (UWD)** creates welcoming spaces for young people – regardless of immigration status – to support, engage, and empower them to make their voices heard within their communities. UWD offers college preparedness programming along with advocacy workshops for students and families. To get involved with UWD programming and learn about their current initiatives, visit https://unitedwedream.org/getinvolved/.
Resources URL Directory:

Teacher Resources

- Inclusivity Signs: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sL8C6izKbtJON2t23GTo2_b7pDQWP41m/view
- Teachers Guide for talking about Difficult Topics: www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/Lets_Talk_Resources.pdf
- Sample Parent and Family Letter: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Uzes2d-welozi43LhefhuKptbqdQpvx7DWJVAWkpekM/edit

HILSC’s Immigration Resources:

www.houstonimmigration.org/resources/need-help/

The following resources can all be found on this general link, for the following specific documents, go to:

- HILSC Immigrant Rights Hotline: www.houstonimmigration.org/hotline/
- List of Houston Legal Service Providers: www.houstonimmigration.org/resources/need-help/
- Link to the Social Service database, AccessHou: https://accesshou.org/
  - Note: this is not a public-facing website, but rather for social workers and other providers to help guide families to the resources

Know Your Rights Resources

- Know Your Rights Fact Sheet: www.nilc.org/issues/immigration-enforcement/everyone-has-certain-basic-rights/
- Know Your Rights Red Cards: www.ilrc.org/red-cards
- Know Your Rights Red Cards (Spanish): www.ilrc.org/red-cards
- Know Your Rights Educational Videos: www.aclu.org/issues/immigrants-rights/ice-and-border-patrol-abuses/we-have-rights
- United WE Dream MigraWatch: https://unitedwedream.org/heretostay/know-your-power/
- For students in immigration detention, learn to write a letter in support of their release: https://www.colorincolorado.org/sites/default/files/Guidance%20on%20Letters%20of%20Support_FINAL_0.pdf