


Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Effect on the Classroom

AAPT reaffirms its position on the importance of creating learning spaces that are safe, comfortable, and inclusive for all students. These spaces foster effective learning where both students and teachers can thrive and support the nation's need for a well-qualified STEM workforce. Recent efforts by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to engage in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in cities around the US, most notably in Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Portland, have created widespread fear in communities. This fear extends to the classroom, from K-12 to college. AAPT recognizes the important work that our members do to educate and impart the importance of science to the next generation. We also recognize the enormous threat to this work that ICE may pose to our everyday lives and work. Many students are afraid to attend class, and when in class, are unable to focus on learning, due to significant trauma caused by aggressive ICE tactics. Many teachers have added options for mixed modality instruction to their classes, where some students meet face to face and others are online, to protect vulnerable students, adding significantly to their already substantial workload. Additionally, many educators are dismayed and frustrated by their inability to protect their students and provide safe learning spaces for their students due to ICE activities in their communities.

AAPT strongly supports substantial limits on ICE activities and calls for the reinstatement of the "[Sensitive Locations](#)" Policy, that strictly limits enforcement in "protected areas," such as schools. AAPT supports the teachers and students that have and continue to be affected by current immigration enforcement activities. We encourage all who are feeling the impact of ICE presence in these learning spaces, including students, teachers, support staff, parents and administrators to provide each other with grace during times of heightened enforcement. AAPT will commit to working with our members to meet the needs of our community and mitigate the risk and impediments to learning. These efforts include providing resources for teachers in classrooms, and safe spaces to share information on addressing the significant challenges ICE presents in our communities. AAPT will continue to empower its members at national meetings with "Know Your Rights" information and will work with hotels and convention centers, as well as convention and visitors bureaus (CVB) to prohibit ICE presence in conference spaces.

Below are a set of resources on the effects of ICE on learning spaces as well as resources for communities to address aggressive ICE tactics.

- <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>
- <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/nea-files-emergency-motion-stop-ice-enforcement-near-schools>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/minnesota-educators-ice-out-of-schools/>
- <https://www.wbez.org/education/2026/02/12/no-recess-lockdowns-less-learning-how-immigration-agents-disrupted-cps-schools-this-fall>
- <https://www.icirr.org/>
- Resources from the United Federation of Teachers
 -  Immigration_Support_Guide_Educators.pdf

-  mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?ui=2&ik=3463ce3...

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