

# Immigrant Student and Parent Rights at School

⇒ *ALL CHILDREN have the right to attend public school, and schools cannot ask for immigration status as a condition of enrollment.*

⇒ *It is illegal for schools to discriminate against students or parents based on national origin, including students and parents that are undocumented.*

## Student Rights

- Students are not required to have a Social Security number or a U.S. birth certificate to attend a public school. Districts can require proof only of where you live, for example a phone bill or letter from a landlord.
- Generally, youths through the age of 21 have the right to enroll in public schools within Massachusetts.
- Students have the right to feel safe from bullying, harassment or violence from other students, teachers and school staff.
- If English is not a student's primary language, schools are required to provide support so that he or she can learn.
- Students that have a special need that affects their ability to learn may have the right to receive special education services from the school district. To determine eligibility for services, parents may request an evaluation, which should be conducted in the student's primary language.

## Parent Rights

- Parents have the right to review their children's school records.
- Parents have the right to receive written and oral communication from their child's school in their primary language. They should be provided a qualified interpreter and all documents in their language, free of charge and without delay.

⇒ *If Your or Your Child's Rights Have Been Violated at School*  
*Write everything down, keep copies, and contact a lawyer or the agencies below*

Region	Resource	Phone Number
Central and Western Massachusetts	Community Legal Aid	855-CLA-LEGAL
Greater Boston Area	Massachusetts Advocates for Children	617-357-8431
Northeastern MA	Children's Law Center of Massachusetts	888-KIDLAW8
Southeastern MA	Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts	800-244-9023
Statewide	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice	617-482-1145
Statewide	Massachusetts Advocates for Children	617-357-8431
Statewide	Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General	800-994-3228
Statewide	Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (students with mental disabilities)	800-342-9092

## ⇒ If You Have Questions Relating to Immigration:

Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement	617-635-2980
Central West Justice Center	800-649-3718
Greater Boston Legal Services	617-603-1700.
Irish International Immigration Center	617-542-7654 (legal clinics for immigrants of all countries)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition	<a href="http://miracoalition.org/know-your-rights">http://miracoalition.org/know-your-rights</a>

## ⇒ If You Have Questions About Your Language Rights:

MA Law Reform Institute	<a href="http://masslegalhelp.org/language-rights">http://masslegalhelp.org/language-rights</a>	617-357-0700 x350
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This flyer was prepared by Massachusetts Advocates for Children in collaboration with MA Law Reform Institute on behalf of the Education Law Task Force subcommittee on Latinos and Special Education.