

Resources to help support undocumented students and families

Questions or need additional resources? Contact: Elizabeth Curtis - elizabeth.curtis2@escoco.org, Regional Facilitator of School Improvement - EL

Know the Legal Rights of Undocumented Children

- **Education Access:** Under *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), all children, regardless of immigration status, have the right to attend public school in the U.S. This applies to both K-12 education and emergency medical care.
- **Confidentiality:** Schools cannot ask about a student's immigration status and must keep it confidential. Schools should not share this information unless required by law.
- **Protection Against Discrimination:** Undocumented children are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) without discrimination based on race, national origin, or immigration status.

Resources:

- [Your Education Rights | Ohio Department of Education and Workforce](#)
- [District obligations to non citizen students](#)
- [FAQ For Educators on Immigrant Students in Public Schools](#)

Legal Assistance and Advocacy

Immigration Legal Services: Connecting families with legal professionals who specialize in immigration law is crucial. Some nonprofit organizations offer free or low-cost legal support, like:

- [Community Refugee and Immigration Services](#) - Adjustment of Status, Asylum applications, Consular Processing, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Employment authorization, Family-based petitions, Naturalization/Citizenship, Removal hearings, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions
- [Vineyard Immigration Counseling Services](#)
Adjustment of Status, Asylum applications, Consular Processing, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Employment authorization, Family-based petitions, NACARA, Naturalization/Citizenship, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), U visas
- [Stephanie Corcoran, Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio](#)
Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (LASCO) offers free noncriminal legal help for people with low incomes, veterans, and seniors in 36 counties. Our mission is to provide



civil legal aid and advocacy to overcome unfairness and injustices to reduce poverty and increase opportunity.

- [Immigration Attorney in Columbus, OH | Simakovsky Law](#)
Removal defense, affirmative asylum applications, family-based immigration, DACA applications, naturalization, violence against women act, employment-based immigration, temporary protected status, disability waiver.
- [Our Lady of Guadalupe Center](#)
Legal Aid workshops
- [Brown Immigration Law](#)
Removal defense, affirmative asylum applications, family-based immigration, DACA applications, naturalization, violence against women act, employment-based immigration, temporary protected status, disability waiver.
- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center \(ILRC\)](#)
Community Resources.

Access to Basic Needs and Community Support

- **Local Support Networks:** Many cities have immigrant or refugee support networks, which provide assistance with housing, food, and emergency services.
- **Food Assistance:** Schools often have programs for free or reduced-price meals for children. Local food banks and immigrant resource centers can also help provide food to families.
- **Healthcare Access:** Many children, regardless of immigration status, can receive health care through programs like Medicaid (if eligible) or community health centers, which often provide care regardless of insurance or immigration status.

Resources:

- [Community Refugee and Immigration Services](#)
Support with housing, food and emergency services.
- [New to the US? Resources](#)
- [Columbus Free Clinic](#)
Free healthcare for anyone, provided by medical students.
- [Latino Free Clinic \(la Clinica Latina\)](#)
Free healthcare for Spanish-speaking patients.

- [Asian Health Initiative](#)

Free healthcare for Asian-American and Asian Immigrant patients.

- [Noor Free Clinic](#)

Free healthcare provided by Muslim nurses and physicians.

Food Pantries:

- [Andrews House](#)

This community service center provides various free programs for residents of Delaware County. Programs include free takeaway dinners, a legal clinic, a mobile food market, and free summer lunch program for children under 18. Find program details online.

- [The CRC Family Services and Choice Food Pantry](#)

Help is provided in many areas including food, clothing, household items and other support items.

- [Columbus Area Food Pantries and Kitchens](#)

- [Dublin Food Pantry](#)

- [Fairfield County Food Pantry](#)

- [Licking County Food Pantry](#)

- [Gahanna Residents in Need \(GRIN\)](#)

- [Healthy New Albany Food Pantry](#)

- [Mid-Ohio Food Collective](#)

- [NNEMAP Food Pantry](#)

Educational Support and Language Resources

- **English Language Learner (ELL) Programs:** Ensure that children who are non-English speakers are supported with English language development programs and bilingual education, if available.
- **Tutoring and Academic Assistance:** Some community organizations and schools offer free tutoring programs for undocumented children. Connecting families with these services can help improve educational outcomes.
- **Understanding Parental Involvement:** Provide resources for parents (in their native languages) about their child's education and ways they can support learning at home, even if they may not be familiar with the U.S. school system.

Resources:

- [Advancing Ohio English Learners -Department of Education and Workforce](#)
Instructional and Family Roadmap and Administrator's Resource Kit.
- [Columbus Literacy Council](#)
CLC provides services to students and families to increase employability, enable future education, encourage civic involvement and promote family stability and support.
- [English Learner Portal](#)
English Learner Portal provides teachers, schools, and districts with the expertise in meeting the needs of English learners/multilingual students and their families.
- [Rooted Linguistics- Valentina Gonzalez](#)
Resources for educators who wish to design culturally inclusive, language affirming and language building classrooms.
- [Immigrant Connections](#)
Resources and PD to support Immigrant students and families in school districts.
- [National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition \(NCELA\)](#)
Includes a broad range of research and resources in support of an inclusive approach to high quality education for ELs.
- [Educational Service Center of Central Ohio - EL Support](#)
Offers a broad range of resources, support and professional learning to support immigrant students and their families.
- [Larry Ferlazzo Edublog](#)
Resources and tools for teachers.
- [Tan Huynh](#)
Articles and resources about language instructional practices that support multilingual learners.
- [Colorin Colorado - Making Immigrant Students and Families Feel Welcome](#)
Tools, strategies, and materials to support the academic success of multilingual students.
- [Sesame Workshop - Displacement and Resettlement](#)
Resources for families resettling after conflict or crisis cope with big changes and challenges. Resources for support.

Key Organizations supporting Immigrant students and families with Mental Health, Employment and Housing, post secondary education and career pathways and federal and state policy changes.

- [Agencies Serving Immigrants and Refugees](#)
- [For Educators: Supporting Undocumented Students and Their Families](#)



educational service center
of Central Ohio

- [Ohio Latino Affairs Commission -Community Resources Hub](#)
- [University of Dayton-Financial Aid for Undocumented Students](#)
- [Immigrant Connections](#)
- [Refugees International](#)
- [Educational Service Center of Central Ohio - Workforce Readiness Programs](#)
- [Jewish Family Services](#)
- [Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services \(ETSS\)](#)
- [US Together](#)
- [CRIS](#)
- [Colleges Accepting Undocumented Students](#)
- [Asian American Community Services \(AACS\)](#)
- [City of Columbus New American Program](#)
- [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#)
- [Dominican Learning Center](#)
- [Informed Immigrant](#)
- [Muslim Family Services of Ohio](#)
- [Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights](#)
- [National Immigration Forum](#)
- [Support for Undocumented Students for School Counselors](#)
- [Postsecondary Education Tip Sheet for Undocumented Students](#)
- [ACLU Guide for Educators of Immigrant Students in Public Schools](#)