

FRONTIER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FRONTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER

5120 ORCHARD AVENUE

HAMBURG, NY 14075-5657

Telephone: (716) 926-1711 Fax: (716) 926-1778



Christopher J. Swiatek
Superintendent of Schools

Shannon Cross
District Clerk

MEMO

To: Frontier Central School Families

From: Mr. Christopher Swiatek
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CS", enclosed in a blue oval.

Date: 2/6/25

Re: Immigration Status/PII Protections

Following the inauguration of President Trump, a very publicized interdiction program is being undertaken by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency, which is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. This has understandably caused concern in many of you because of the immigration status of some of our students/families. In the past few days the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association (E-NSSA) has spoken with our federal partners, including the Director of Community Relations for Homeland Security in Buffalo and both local members of Congress.

Here is what was learned about the facts at this current moment.

- Most importantly, it was asserted unequivocally that federal ICE agents are not going to enter schools. They were very clear that they are not looking for children, and they are not going to enter a school to question a child about the whereabouts of an adult they are seeking. The following point was made vigorously - The ICE agents themselves are moms, dads, aunts and uncles. From a human perspective, we were told that they have absolutely no interest in entering a school as a part of this effort.
- This federal effort was described as a targeted enforcement designed to find more than 50,000 adult individuals in New York State who are believed to be in the country illegally and who have been arrested for violent crimes but released after arrest. It is believed by local and federal law enforcement that these individuals are truly dangerous and thought to include violent criminals, people who were previously imprisoned in their home country for violent crimes, and known gang members.

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- Children who are here illegally, and who happen to be in the company of one of the adults who are apprehended at the time of the arrest will be kept with their families. It was told to us that this is because the Secretary of Homeland Security pledged that the federal government will not separate families. So, it is possible that a child may be deported with their family because of a circumstance like this. But ICE will not attempt to contact that child at school.

None of this information is being offered as a way to offer comfort to any of you who are concerned for our students in this regard. Rather, it is to let you know what we learned and understand at the current moment.

It is also worth reminding everyone that according to NYSED policy, schools cannot disclose a student's immigration status or other personal information without a "judicial order of lawfully issued subpoena," meaning we are prohibited from releasing such details unless compelled by a court order. If faced with such a request, please inform your school Administrator or Supervisor who will contact the Superintendent's office to engage legal counsel before disclosing any student information.

Thank you.