

# Promoting a Safe and Secure Campus for All Students at Solano\_January 2025

**Principles and Core Protections for All California Students** (Summary of Guidelines from the California Attorney General):

- Equal Access & Non-Discrimination: Public institutions of higher education in California must provide equal access to education and related opportunities to all students, regardless of their immigration status. Discrimination based on immigration status is illegal and prohibited.
- **Privacy & Confidentiality:** Student information related to immigration status is considered highly sensitive and must be kept private and confidential. Institutions cannot share such information with federal immigration enforcement agencies (ICE) without a valid warrant or subpoena.
  - Sanctuary Jurisdiction: Senate Bill 54, known as the California Values Act, and Assembly Bill 21, prohibit colleges and other state and local agencies from using resources to assist immigration enforcement activities. Accordingly, under SB 54, California state law prohibits campus police and security departments from assisting immigration enforcement officers.
  - SCC's Department of Public Safety (DPS) is committed to keeping our campus safe for all and will direct any immigration enforcement requests to the Superintendent-President.
- **FERPA Compliance:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student records and requires institutions to obtain parental or student consent before disclosing personally identifiable information.

#### Tuition and Financial Aid

- Residency for Tuition: California law allows eligible undocumented students who meet certain requirements to qualify for in-state tuition through AB 540 and other related regulations. Students can learn more about these options and receive assistance in accessing these benefits through the <u>Undocumented Students Resource Center</u>.
- Financial Aid & Scholarships: Undocumented students may be eligible for various forms of state financial aid and institutional scholarships, depending on their eligibility criteria. Students can apply for California state financial aid through the <a href="#">CA Dream Act Application (CADAA)</a> supported by the California Student Aid Commission.

Access to Services: All students have access to any of the Academic resources,
 Student services resources or you can direct students to the <u>Undocumented</u>
 <u>Students Resource Center</u> to access support.

As a college, we must safeguard student information.

- Do not ask students about their immigration status.
- Do not share any information with anyone, including other faculty or staff.

  Student records are protected under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). As such, do not share student records (including grades or attendance information) with anyone without the students' explicit.
- If you become aware of a student's immigration status, treat this information with the utmost discretion. Do not share or discuss it with others.
- **Direct all legal inquiries to the Superintendent-President:** In the unlikely event you are approached by a law enforcement agent seeking student information, **do not disclose any information, immediately contact the college president.**

# **Understanding the Unique Challenges for Undocumented Students:**

- Fear and anxiety related to immigration enforcement.
- Financial hardships.
- Difficulty navigating complex bureaucratic systems.
- Emotional and psychological stress.
- Lack of family support or awareness of how to access legal/financial support.

### How You Can Help:

- **Be a Source of Support:** Create a classroom atmosphere that is safe, welcoming, and respectful for all. This includes being empathetic to students with hidden challenges.
- Use Inclusive Language: Be mindful of the language you use in the classroom.
   Avoid making assumptions about students' backgrounds or immigration status.
- Promote Awareness: Consider incorporating information on resources and support into your syllabus or course materials, including resources for undocumented students.

- Be Knowledgeable: Be aware of the basic resources on campus for undocumented students. You can always direct students to the <u>Undocumented Students</u> Resources.
- Refer Students to Support Services: Be ready to connect students with:
  - Mental Health Services: Helps students address the stress and anxiety related to their immigration situation.
    - In addition to campus services
      - California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA): Offers mental health services and support specifically for immigrant communities. Find resources at <a href="http://www.calmhsa.org">http://www.calmhsa.org</a>
      - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California: Provides mental health resources and peer support for immigrants and their families. Visit their website at <a href="https://www.namica.org">https://www.namica.org</a>.
  - Legal Services: Connects students to free or low-cost legal resources within the community. (See attached Flyer for services.)
    - Visit National Immigration Law Center, <u>www.nilc.org</u> for more information on the rights of immigrants.
  - <u>Financial Aid</u>: Helps students explore eligibility for scholarships or other financial aid. (also see <u>CADAA</u>)
  - Counseling Services: Ensures they are on track for their educational goals and navigating the system properly.
  - Visit Link to View Other <u>Student Support Programs</u>

## **Key Takeaway**

- Let's work together to support all of our students.
- Notify the Superintendent-President immediately, if you learn that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or any officer engaged in immigration enforcement, is expected to enter, will enter, or has entered the campus to execute an immigration order.

For more CCCCO systemwide information, subscribe to the <u>Undocumented Student</u> <u>Support Newsletter</u>