

# Quick guide of do's and don'ts for educators

## Do:

- Support families in establishing family plans, including who can pick up students or who has custody rights.
- Distribute “Know Your Rights” materials to students, families, and communities.
- Verify any rumors before you spread them as information. Immediately inform Nashville Community Defense if you cannot check yourself and we’ll investigate.
- Use the term “undocumented.” Many people including some undocumented immigrants themselves use the term “illegal,” but most immigrants consider it offensive.
- Protect your lists as if your own deportation depended on it.
- Keep advocacy activities to yourself when necessary
  - Some activities can and should be done without advertisement. if they could possibly harm directly affected people.
- Provide counseling for students affected by raids.
- Maintain in English and other languages spoken at the school a list of resources such as the names of mental health providers, social workers, *pro bono* attorneys and local immigration advocates and organizations that can be shared with your students and their families.
- Take the time to learn all the risks undocumented people face and how they are Treated differently in the legal system.
- Advocate outside the classroom and join Nashville Community Defense and/or other immigrant and refugee organizations

## Don't:

- Don't “out” people who are undocumented. This includes parents and students
- Don't “out” areas where undocumented people live or spend time.
- Don't ask anyone about their immigration status or assume you know their status. If they want to tell you, they will.
  - Also, children often don't know their own status or that of family members, and it may be different for each family member
- Don't assume “documentation” means someone is protected. Green cards, DACA, and other permits/visas do not guarantee citizenship rights, making these populations at risk for detention and deportation.
- Don't use the term “illegal.” Most immigrants consider it offensive
- Don't spread information that you are not completely sure is accurate and verified.
- Don't make lists of names if it's not necessary (including your own name).
- Don't post or repost anything that will “out” undocumented people on social media
- Don't communicate about sensitive information regarding documentation, immigration, etc. on phones, digital devices or platforms, including email (not even if it's encrypted).

Here is a good general overview of what teachers can do

<http://www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-55-spring-2017/feature/immigrant-and-refugee-children-guide-educators-and-school-su>

Here is a well explained list of general don'ts:

<https://medium.com/@TheDailyDemand/dont-get-your-undocumented-friends-in-trouble-a-how-to-75a277875daa>

*Nashville Community Defense is a coalition formed in the wake of the presidential inauguration to stand with immigrant and Muslim community members who have been singled out for threats and harassment.*

[NashvilleCommunityDefense@gmail.com](mailto:NashvilleCommunityDefense@gmail.com) [facebook.com/nashvillecommunitydefense](https://www.facebook.com/nashvillecommunitydefense)