

Immigrant Student and Parent Rights at School

- ⇒ **All children have the right to go to public school.**
- ⇒ **Schools may not ask you for your or your child's immigration status.**
- ⇒ **It is illegal for schools to have different rules for students or parents because of the country you come from. This law also protects students and parents who do not have documents.**

Students' Rights

- Your child does not need a Social Security number or a U.S. birth certificate to go to public school. Schools can only ask for proof of where you live. Your phone bill or a letter from your landlord are examples of the kinds of proof you can use.
- In Massachusetts, most young people have the right to go to public school. This rule applies to students who are 21 and younger.
- Your child has the right to feel safe from bullying, harassment or violence. They have the right to feel safe with other students, teachers and school staff.
- If English is not your child's first language, schools must provide support so that your child can learn.
- Students who find learning difficult because they have a disability may have the right to special education services from the school. Parents may ask the school to test your child for special education services. The school must test your child in the language that best shows your child's skills and knowledge.

Parents' Rights

- You have the right to review your child's school records. You can ask the school to change your child's records if you think they are wrong.
- You have the right to get all communication from your child's school in your first language. The school should use a qualified interpreter when they need to speak with you. And they should translate all the documents you need from them into your language. Getting information in your language must be free for you and the school must provide this information at the same time that other parents get information in English.

If you or your child's rights were violated at school,

**write everything down, keep copies, and
contact a lawyer or the agencies below.**

Where the Agency works	Agency	Phone Number
Central and Western Massachusetts	Community Legal Aid	855-252-5342
Greater Boston Area	Massachusetts Advocates for Children	617-357-8431
Northeastern Massachusetts	Children's Law Center of Massachusetts	888-KIDLAW8
Southeastern Massachusetts	Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts	800-244-9023
All of Massachusetts	Lawyers for Civil Rights	617-482-1145
All of Massachusetts	Massachusetts Advocates for Children	617-357-8431

For Answers to Your Questions About Immigration, Please Call:

Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement	617-635-2980
Central West Justice Center	800-649-3718
Greater Boston Legal Services	617-603-1700
Rian Immigrant Center	617-542-7654 (legal clinics for immigrants of all countries)
ACLU of Massachusetts	https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights/

If You Have Questions About Your Language Rights, Please Call:

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute	http://masslegalhelp.org/language-rights
Massachusetts Advocates for Children	https://www.massadvocates.org/

