



# Ensuring Access to Early Childhood Education for Children in Immigrant Families

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# Who We Are



**ALL IN for Safe Schools** is a California-based campaign that brings together early childhood and K-12 education non-profit leaders to support educators and providers in creating welcoming, inclusive, and affirming learning environments—especially for children in immigrant families and LGBTQ+ students.

Led by The Children's Partnership and Californians Together, the campaign is powered by a core team of advocacy and education partners, including ACLU of Southern California, Equality California, Teach Plus California, Early Edge California, and California School-Based Health Alliance.

Sign up for updates on [allinforsafeschools.org](https://allinforsafeschools.org)

# Snapshot of Children of Immigrants in CA



## A Child is a Child

2024 SNAPSHOT:  
California Children's Health



## Children in Immigrant Families

We know that when children are healthy, they are more likely to succeed in school and in life. We work to address the underlying causes of health inequities by improving the conditions in which children live, learn, grow and play so that young people from historically marginalized communities

have the resources and opportunities they need to achieve their dreams and reach their full potential. This infographic provides an overview of key child health facts in California and nationally to inform the work we must do together to make California the best state to raise healthy, thriving children.

### DEFINITIONS

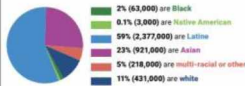


- Children in immigrant families** are children who have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States, regardless of their own citizenship or place of birth.
- Mixed-status families** are families whose members have different citizenship or immigration status. For example, a child who is a U.S. citizen but whose parents are undocumented is considered part of a mixed-status family.
- Non-U.S. citizen** means people who were born outside the United States and who are not U.S. citizens.
- Foreign-born or immigrant** refers to anyone born outside of the United States.
- Undocumented immigrants** are foreign-born people who are living in the United States without legal documentation.
- DACA recipients** are people who came to the U.S. as children, meet certain program requirements, and have been granted administrative protection from deportation, a social security number, and a work permit for a period of two years.
- Dual language learners** are children who are learning two or more languages at the same time.
- Green card holders**, also known as Legal Permanent Residents (LPR), are non-U.S. citizens who have been lawfully authorized by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services agency (USCIS) to live and work in the U.S. permanently.

### POPULATION

4,013,000 or nearly half (46%) of California's 9 million children are part of immigrant families, almost all are U.S. citizens. 1 in 5 (20%) California children live in mixed-status families.

Children in immigrant families come from diverse backgrounds and identify with various races and ethnicities:



Nearly 1 in 3 (27%) children in immigrant families are 5 or under. **Immigrants** are 45% of all parents of children ages 4 and below and **45% of all parents** of children ages 5 to 10.

Nearly 1 in 10 or 1,073,993 children in California have an undocumented parent.

Immigrant parents bring a wealth of cultural and linguistic diversity to our state:



399,000 children in California were born outside of the United States and 296,000 are non-U.S. citizens.

Our state is home to 165,090 DACA recipients.

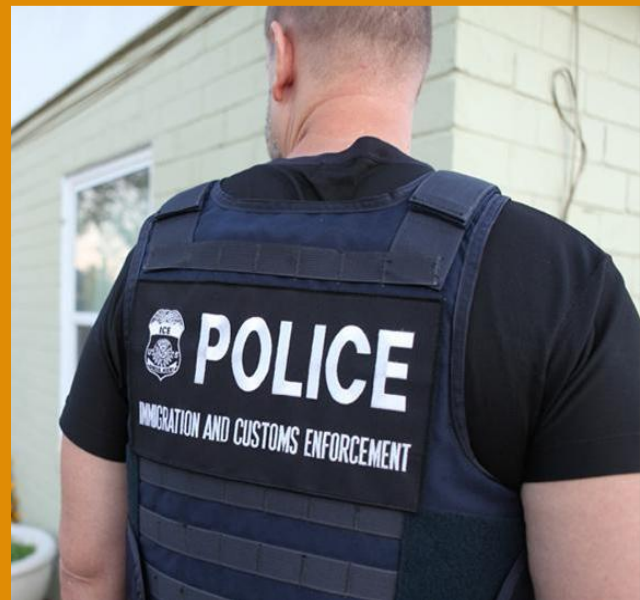
Across the nation, 1 in 4 DACA recipients are parents to nearly 256,000 U.S. citizen children. Nearly every DACA recipient is part of a mixed-status family.

- 46% of California's 9 million children are part of immigrant families
- Nearly 1 in 3 children in immigrant families are 5 or under
- Immigrants are 40% of all parents of children ages 4 and under and 45% of all parents of children ages 5 to 10
- 1 in 5 California children live in mixed-status families
- Nearly 1 in 10 children in California has an undocumented parent
- Almost all are U.S. citizens

Download A Child is a Child Fact Sheets at [allinfor safeschools.org](https://allinfor safeschools.org) → "For Educators"



# Shift in immigration policy



Increasing enforcement



Removing legal protections



Reducing access to  
public benefits

## Recission of Sensitive Locations Policy

Under the previous protected areas policy, ICE and CBP agents were restricted from carrying out enforcement actions in certain locations, including:

- Schools, early education centers, and places of learning
- Hospitals, places of worship, disaster relief, homeless shelters, food pantries and places providing social services

**Policy was replaced with new guidance ordering agents to use “common sense” when carrying out actions in such locations.**

# Proposed CA Legislation



## AB 495 Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025 (Rodriguez)

- Proposed to Expand Caregiver Authorization: Allows “nonrelative extended family members” to execute caregiver authorization affidavits.
- Proposes to add Joint Guardianship Option: Permits courts to appoint joint guardianship between a custodial parent and a nominated individual if the parent faces immigration-related administrative action.
- “Licensed child day care facilities & Employees” provision:
  - This bill prohibits facilities from collecting information about the immigration or citizenship status of children/family members, except where legally required.
  - It also requires facilities to report any immigration enforcement activity to the state while protecting family privacy.
  - The bill would require providers exhaust child’s emergency contact information if aware that a child’s parent or guardian is not available to care for the child.

**[Learn More: Safe Schools Policy Explainer](#)**



# What Can You Do If Executive Action Impacts Your Work?



- Speak to your counsel before changing your programming
  - Laws or contracts may provide your organization with due process or other rights before the federal government can remove your funding or otherwise harm your organization
- If possible, avoid aggressive and anticipatory compliance – in other words, don't comply until it is confirmed you must
  - Where to get confirmation?
    - Your legal counsel
    - CA State Leaders
      - CA Department of Education
      - CA Attorney General: <https://oag.ca.gov/subscribe>
      - Governor's Office

# What else can ECE professionals do?



## Develop Safe Space Policies

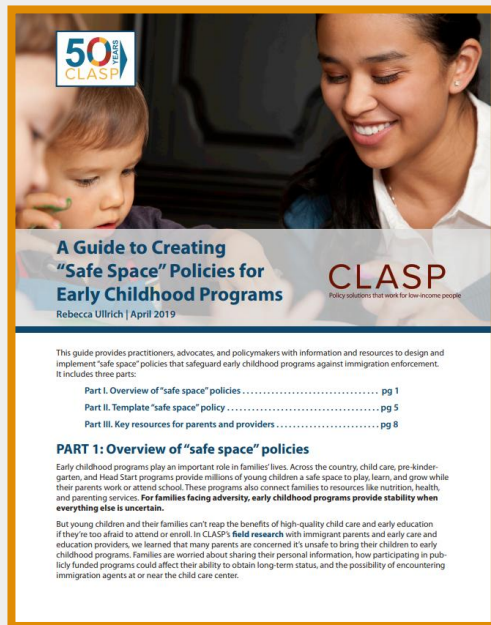
A plan to **safeguard** programs against immigration enforcement and **protect** families' safety and privacy

1. Rooted in **basic security and privacy protocols** you already have in place
2. Reinforces basic constitutional principles, federal agency guidance related to immigration enforcement





# We can help



Find the CLASP guide to creating safe space policies and other resources at [allinfor safeschools.org](https://allinfor safeschools.org)

Contact **Liza M. Davis** ([ldavis@childrenspartnership.org](mailto:ldavis@childrenspartnership.org)) for questions, assistance, and presentation requests.