



December 3, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue working together to foster a welcoming and inclusive campus, I want to emphasize the vital role we all play in supporting our undocumented, DACA, and mixed-status students. These students bring so much to our community, and it's up to us to ensure they feel safe, supported, and empowered to thrive. [Attached](#) please find a simple guide outlining what to do in case you encounter Federal Immigration Officials on campus.

California's **SB 54 – The California Values Act** provides critical protections by limiting the involvement of state and local resources, including public institutions like ours, in federal immigration enforcement. This law and our campus policies strengthen our ability to safeguard our students' rights and well-being. Here's how we can work together to make a difference:

1. **Protect Student Privacy**
 - Student records are protected under FERPA. Immigration status or any personal information should never be shared without a legally valid court order or subpoena. It's our responsibility to ensure students' trust is never compromised.
2. **Foster a Safe Environment**
 - Immigration enforcement actions are highly restricted under SB 54 and the federal "sensitive locations" policy. If enforcement officials ever approach you, immediately direct them to college leadership or legal counsel—don't engage on your own.
3. **Empower and Inform Students**
 - Our students often rely on us to navigate complex systems. Take time to familiarize yourself with resources like the Dream Resource Center, California Dream Act financial aid, and legal services available on campus. You can be a bridge to the help they need.
4. **Stay Ready**
 - Participate in training sessions or workshops designed to support undocumented students and effectively respond to immigration-related situations. These programs offer valuable tools and the confidence to act with clarity and care. Information regarding our upcoming legal workshop will be provided soon; stay tuned.

Through state advocacy and collaboration with our local elected officials, we can make a significant impact. Yesterday, during the legislative special session called by Governor Newsom, a few early action budget bills were introduced. These bills summarized below can assist us in helping our students and their families navigate potential challenges they may face in the coming years. We will continue to support and advocate for our local communities to ensure that all students have equal opportunities to achieve their dreams.

- **SBX1 1 (Wiener)**. This budget [bill](#), according to a [Senate leadership press release](#), "includes \$25 million in funding proposed by Governor Newsom for the California Department of Justice to bolster legal resources, and adds \$10 million for County Counsels and City Attorneys for similar purposes. It also expands on that effort by including \$25 million for Legal Aid efforts and legal services for local communities."

- **ABX1 1 (Gabriel).** This budget [bill](#), according to a [press release](#) from Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino), “will set aside up to \$25 million in funding” in the state budget “to cover the costs of potential litigation” related to the new federal administration.
- **ABX1 2 (Gabriel).** This budget trailer [bill](#), according to Assemblymember Gabriel’s release, “will immediately allocate \$500,000 to fund initial case preparation” at DOJ. The bill includes findings and declarations related to the special session.

Our students look to us not just as educators but as allies. By working together, we can uphold our college’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion while ensuring that every student feels they belong and are valued.

Thank you for all that you do to make Cerritos College a beacon of hope and opportunity.

Jose

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