



How California Schools Can Support Students, Families Fearing Ice Raids

Laura Enriquez, University of California-Irvine

Back-to-school season should be a time of hope and excitement. This year in Southern California, however, it was shadowed by fear as immigration threats spilled into schools.

All summer, federal immigration agents [besieged the streets](#) of Southern California. In response, schools in impacted areas set up [safety zones](#), coordinated school personnel and volunteers to monitor nearby areas for ICE activity. Still, violent raids and violated rights are ratcheting up fear across entire communities. Just this week, the U.S. Supreme Court [ruled](#) that one's race and related factors can be used to detain individuals, paving the way for immigration enforcement officers to make more frequent stops.

As I got my kids ready for school — picking out new shoes and stuffing supplies into backpacks — I was struck by the privilege that these are our biggest worries. For many other Latino families in Southern California, the first day back was overshadowed by anxiety: Will Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) be waiting outside? Will a parent not come home tonight?