



January 15, 2026

As Minnesota education organizations, we write to emphasize the urgent need to reaffirm federal policies that protect student safety and ensure the stable operation of schools and other essential community institutions.

Since 1993, federal policy has limited immigration enforcement activities at sensitive locations, including schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship, as well as their immediate surroundings. These longstanding protections established clear boundaries that safeguarded students, staff, and families while allowing critical community services to operate without disruption.

Recent federal statements have raised concerns that immigration enforcement may expand to include schools, hospitals, and churches. Minnesota school leaders report growing confusion and anxiety among parents, staff, and community members about whether enforcement actions could occur in school buildings, parking areas, or adjacent sidewalks.

Enforcement activity at or near schools causes student distress, disrupts learning, undermines a sense of safety, and places educators in roles beyond their expertise and responsibility.

To protect students and maintain safe, stable learning environments, we respectfully request the restoration of a clear, publicly affirmed federal standard designating schools as locations where immigration enforcement will not occur. Reestablishing explicit boundaries will reduce confusion, support coordinated responses, and allow schools to fulfill their core educational mission while respecting federal law.

Schools are the heartbeat of our communities. Families and employers depend on them to remain open and safe. Strong, clear federal safeguards are essential to preserving student safety, operational stability, and public confidence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)  
Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA)  
Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD)  
Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE)  
Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS)  
Minnesota Community Education Association (MCEA)

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MAASP)  
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA)  
Minnesota School Personnel Administrators (MASPA)  
Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA)  
Minnesota School Public Relations Association (MinnSPRA)  
Minnesota Parent Teacher Association (Minnesota PTA)

TO:

U.S. Reps. Brad Finstad, Angie Craig, Kelly Morrison, Betty McCollum, Ilhan Omar, Tom Emmer, Michelle Fischbach, Pete Stauber  
U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith

CC:

Gov. Tim Walz, MDE Commissioner Willie Jett  
MN Rep. Lisa Demuth (Speaker), MN Sen. Mark Johnson (Minority Leader)  
MN Sen. Erin Murphy (Majority Leader), Rep. Stephenson (DFL Caucus Leader)