

MASSACHUSETTS IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE ADVOCACY COALITION



YOUTH TOOLKIT

This toolkit is for students and those who work with students.
The toolkit contains different resource pages
you can share with your group.

Included in the toolkit are Know Your Rights resources,
mental health resources, immigration terminology,
information on how to get involved as an immigrant advocate,
and financial aid information for immigrant students.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! (Eng)

We all have rights in the United States!

Basic Rights

- Right to remain silent
- Right to speak with a legal representative

Carry a Know Your Rights card!

Rights if Immigration Comes to your Home

- Do not open the door unless ICE has a warrant signed by a judge
- Do not answer any questions. You have the right to remain silent.
- Do not sign anything without consulting a legal representative.

Rights if Immigration Comes to your Work

- Right to remain silent
- Do not answer any questions or give officials any information about yourself
- You have the right to not time up

Rights in Detention

- Right to remain silent
- Do not sign anything without consulting a legal representative
- Right to request release on bond

Family Preparedness

- Gather important documents
- Your parents can make a plan for a trusted adult to take care of you and your siblings
- Update school emergency contact with the information of that trusted adult

Getting Legal Help

- Only lawyers and accredited representatives can give you legal advice
- Non-accredited are not authorized to give legal advice

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition | May 2026

Know Your Rights

Sign up your family about emergency situation, if separated

Consider all your options... and plans to reunite

Don't open the door!

Know Your Rights

You have rights

- Right to remain silent
- Right to speak to a lawyer
- Right to see a lawyer signed by a judge

If arrested or detained, don't sign anything

You have the right to:

- Call a friend, family or lawyer
- You can take a translator
- You can take a translator

If you see ICE in your neighborhood, report what you see to the U.S. ICE Watch Hotline: 617-379-5023

Share your story (over anonymously)

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition | www.miracoalition.org

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS VIDEOS (Eng)

We all have rights in the United States!

Q: If ICE comes to your home

Q: If ICE stops you in public

Rights while driving

Looking for legal help

Prepare with your family

Rights if detained

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES (Eng)

If the topic of immigration is causing you stress, take some time away from social media and television.

You are loved and you will be taken care of.

- The adults in your life are doing everything they can to think about the best way to take care of you
- Adults in your life may be treating you differently because they are worried about your future
- Immigration law can be complicated
- Sometimes adults don't have all the answers

For your own safety:

- Memorize phone numbers of friends or adults you trust
- Carry some form of identification with you when you are in public
- If you have lawful immigration documents, carry those documents as a copy with you
- If you don't have lawful immigration documents, you can carry another type of identification if you have it (for example, a student ID, a driver's license, a passport, etc.)
- It's important to know your rights. You have the right to remain silent and speak to an attorney.

Be patient and kind to yourself. It's okay if you are not able to sleep up with everything right now while you are experiencing stress.

- Instead, spend extra time with your family, friends, pets, and enjoying your hobbies
- Consider writing in a journal, going on a walk, writing a song/poem, or creating artwork

Ask for help:

- You can ask your teacher for extra time on assignments
- Speak to a trusted friend or trusted adult about what is worrying you

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by phone call and text at 833-775-2465 (Toll-free) and online chat at massbeheline.com

You are not alone, you are part of a larger community.

- At MIRA Coalition, our staff are immigrants and children of immigrants
- MIRA Coalition is made up of over 80+ organizations in Massachusetts who support immigrants, find one you can connect with
- Together, we all share resources to support one another

Immigrant supporting organizations in Massachusetts

HOW TO GET INVOLVED (Eng)

Anyone can become an immigrant advocate

Find your why

- Write down why you care about the rights of immigrants.

Learn about organizations

- Once you know why you want to get involved, learn about organizations that work on topics you are most interested in
- MIRA Coalition advocates for pre-immigrant policies at the MA Statehouse
- Many other organizations provide services, resources, and support to immigrants.

Get involved in your community

- Share resources (hang-up flyers in your local neighborhood)
- Consider volunteering with an organization.

Your voice matters

- Share your personal story (either publicly or anonymously)
- Help change the narrative about immigrants by sharing accurate facts
- Email or write a letter to your legislator asking for their support
- Connect your personal story to facts about immigrants and the policies you care most about.

Be a leader

- Join or start a student club
- Help fundraise for an organization

Get creative

- Make posters and signs for marches
- Create a video
- Write a poem
- Create artwork

Learn about organizations | Facts about immigrants | Policy Advocacy Roadmap | Know Your Rights | Volunteer with MIRA Coalition

Immigration Terms

Immigrant: An immigrant is a person living in a country other than that of his or her country of birth.

Mixed-Status Immigrants: A group of people that have different immigration statuses.

Citizen: Someone who was born in the United States or became a citizen through the process of naturalization.

Lawful Permanent Resident/Green Card Holder: Someone who is authorized under law to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. The term "Green Card" comes from the color of the identification card.

Naturalization: The process of going from being a Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder) to U.S. history and laws, and demonstrate they can speak English (with some exceptions), among other requirements and taking an Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

Undocumented or Unauthorized Immigrant: A person who is present in the US without the permission of the US government. The person may have entered without being properly inspected by an immigration officer or entered lawfully on a temporary visa and violated the terms of that visa, usually by remaining in the US beyond their authorized stay.

Refugee: Any person outside their country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. In the U.S., this term applies to someone who has been officially recognized as meeting the definition of a refugee after applying for refugee status from outside the U.S. and has been resettled in the U.S.

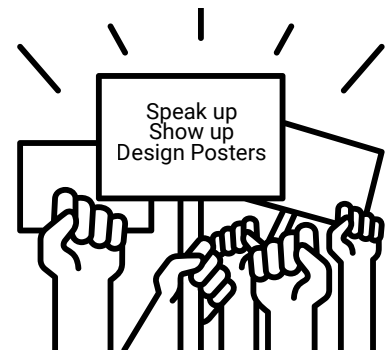
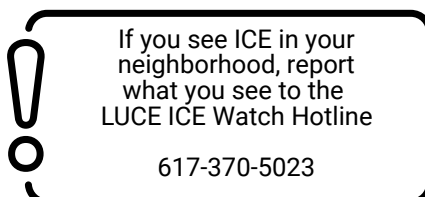
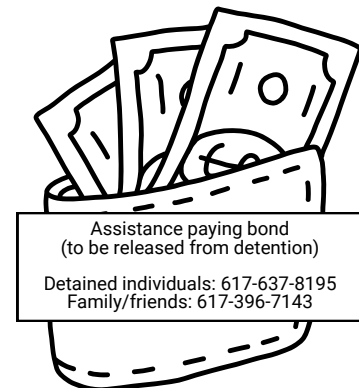
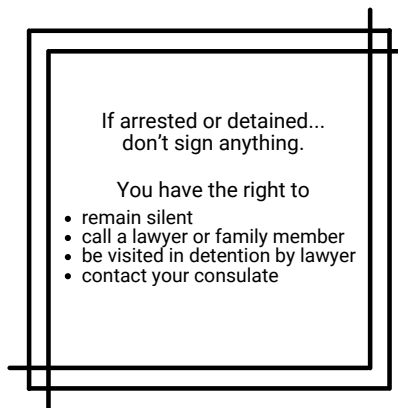
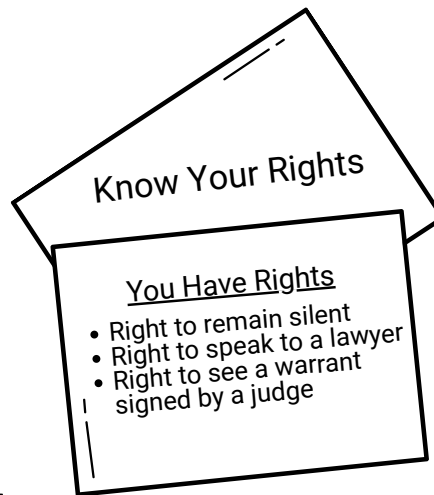
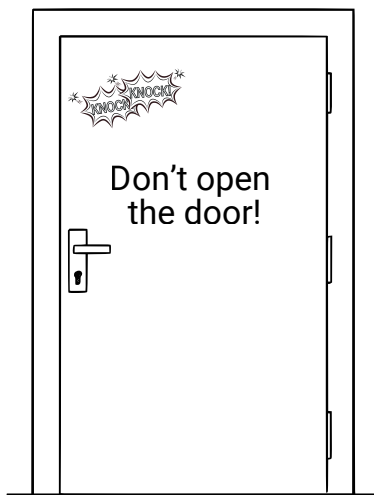
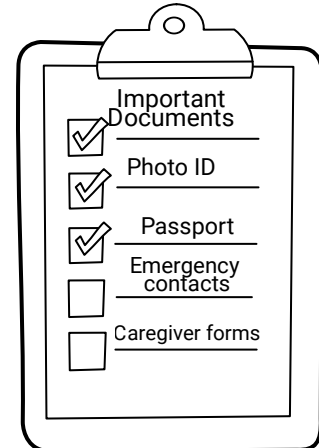
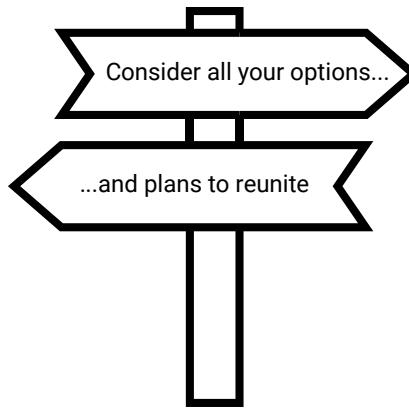
Asylum Seeker/Asylee: Someone who left their country because they have been or may be persecuted for their political beliefs, race, religion, nationality, or membership in a social group, and who apply for protection while they are at the border or inside the U.S.

Temporary Protected Status: The secretary of the Department of Homeland Security may designate nationals of a foreign country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) due to conditions that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately.

ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security. The agency includes Immigration Police / Enforcement, Detention & Deportation, and represents the Department of Homeland Security in immigration proceedings.

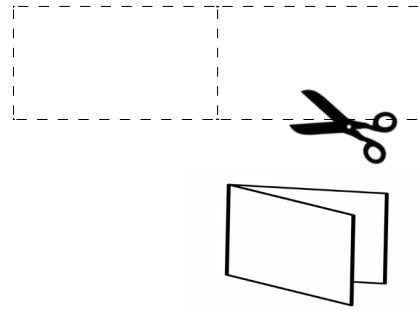
Deportation: A formal removal of a non-citizen from the United States when they have been found removable for violating the immigration laws.

Know Your Rights



To print at home, use heavy weight paper, or card stock. Cut out the cards along the dotted lines. If you're unable to print on both sides, you can simply fold on the center line to make a 2-sided card.

If you use a professional printer, we suggest you print 2-sided cards with white text on red card stock with rounded corners.



You have constitutional rights:

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.
- DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT. If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

You have constitutional rights:

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.
- DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT. If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

You have constitutional rights:

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.
- DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT. If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

You have constitutional rights:

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.
- DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT. If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.



MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

If the topic of immigration is causing you stress, please take a moment to take care of yourself.

MIRA



Eng

You are loved and you will be taken care of.

- The adults in your life are doing everything they can to think about the best way to take care of you.
 - Adults in your life may be thinking about travel plans, who will take care of you, and how your family will reunite.
 - Immigration law can be complicated. Sometimes adults don't have all the answers.

For your own safety:

- Memorize phone numbers of friends or adults you trust.
- Carry some form of identification with you when you are in public.
 - If you have lawful immigration documents, carry those documents or a copy with you.
 - If you don't have lawful immigration documents, you can carry another type of identification if you have it (for example, a student ID). You don't have to share your identification with immigration, but there are some situations where it may be helpful to have ID.
 - It's important to learn your rights. You have the right to remain silent and speak to an attorney.

If immigration news is causing you stress, take some time away from social media and television.

- Instead, spend extra time with your family, friends, pets, and enjoying your hobbies.
- Consider writing in a journal, going on a walk, writing a song/poem, or creating artwork.

Be patient and kind to yourself. It's okay if you are not able to keep up with everything right now while you are experiencing stress.



- Ask for help.
 - You can ask your teacher for extra time on assignments.
 - Speak to a trusted friend or trusted adult about what is worrying you.

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by phone call and text at **833-773-2445** (BHHL), and online chat at masshelpline.com.



You are not alone, you are part of a larger community.

- At MIRA Coalition, our staff are immigrants and children of immigrants.
- MIRA Coalition is made up of over 160+ organizations in Massachusetts who support immigrants, find one you can connect with.
- Together, we all share resources to support one another.

Immigrant supporting organizations in Massachusetts



Immigration Terms

Immigrant: An immigrant is a person living in a country other than that of his or her country of birth.

Mixed-Status Immigrants: A group of people that have different immigration statuses.

Citizen: Someone who was born in the United States or became a citizen through the process of naturalization.

Lawful Permanent Resident/Green Card Holder: Someone who is authorized under law to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. The term "Green Card" comes from the color of the identification card.

Naturalization: The process of going from being a Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder) to being granted U.S. citizenship. Individuals age 18 or older must answer a number of questions about U.S. history and laws, and demonstrate they can speak English (with some exceptions), among other requirements and taking an Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

Undocumented or Unauthorized Immigrant: A person who is present in the US without the permission of the US government. The person may have entered without being properly inspected by an immigration officer or entered lawfully on a temporary visa and violated the terms of that visa, usually by remaining in the US beyond their authorized stay.

Refugee: Any person outside their country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. In the U.S., this term applies to someone who has been officially recognized as meeting the definition of a refugee after applying for refugee status from outside the U.S. and has been resettled in the U.S.

Asylum Seeker/Asylee: Someone who left their country because they have been or may be persecuted for their political beliefs, race, religion, nationality, or membership in a social group, and who apply for protection while they are at the border or physically in the U.S.

Temporary Protected Status: The secretary of the Department of Homeland Security may designate nationals of a foreign country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) due to conditions that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately.

ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security. The agency includes Immigration Police / Enforcement, Detention & Deportation, and represents the Department of Homeland Security in immigration proceedings

Deportation: A formal removal of a non-citizen from the United States when they have been found removable for violating the immigration laws.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

We all have rights in the United States!

Basic Rights

- Right to remain silent
- Right to speak with a legal representative

Carry a Know Your Rights card!

Rights if Immigration Comes to your Home

- Do not open the door unless ICE has a warrant signed by a judge
- Do not answer any questions. You have the right to remain silent.
- Do not sign anything without consulting a legal representative.

Family Preparedness

- Gather important documents
- Your parents can make a plan for a trusted adult to take care of you and your siblings
- Update school emergency contact with the information of that trusted adult

Getting Legal Help

- Only lawyers and accredited representatives can give you legal advice
- Notaries (notarios) are not authorized to give legal advice

Rights when driving

- Stay in the car and place your hands on steering wheel
- Drivers must provide name and address, but do not need to answer questions about immigration status
- In MA, immigration status is not required to get a driver's license!
- **Never present false documents**

Rights if Immigration Comes to your Work

- Right to remain silent
- Do not answer any questions or give officials any information about yourself
- You have the right to not line up

Rights in Detention

- Right to remain silent
- Do not sign anything without consulting a legal representative
- Right to request release on bond.

More Resources





HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Anyone can become an immigrant advocate

Find your why

- Write down why you care about the rights of immigrants.

Learn about organizations

- Once you know why you want to get involved, learn about organizations that work on topics you are most interested in.
 - MIRA Coalition advocates for pro-immigrant policies at the MA Statehouse
 - Many other organizations provide services, resources, and support to immigrants.

Get involved in your community

- Share resources (hang-up flyers in your local neighborhood)
- Consider volunteering with an organization.

Your voice matters

- Share your personal story (either publicly or anonymously)
- Help change the narrative about immigrants by sharing accurate facts.
- Email or write a letter to your legislator asking for their support.
 - Connect your personal story to facts about immigrants and the policies you care most about.

Be a leader

- Join or start a student club
- Help fundraise for an organization

Get creative

- Make posters and signs for marches
- Create a video
- Write a poem
- Create artwork

Learn about organizations



Facts about immigrants



Policy Advocacy Priorities



Know Your Rights flyers and posters



Volunteer with MIRA Coalition





We all have rights in the United States!



Q If ICE comes to your home x



Q If ICE stops you in public x



Q Rights while driving x



Q Looking for legal help x



Q Prepare with your family x



Q Rights if detained x

In-State Tuition and Financial Support Guide for Students and Parents in Massachusetts

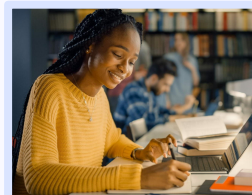
MIRA



Undocumented students in Massachusetts are now able to receive in-state tuition and financial support to afford higher education. This guide is meant to help ensure a successful application process.

Step One: Check if You Qualify

- ☐ I have attended a Massachusetts public high school for 3 years,
AND
- ☐ I have graduated with a high school diploma or its equivalent, like a GED.



Step Two: Get Your Paperwork

- ☐ I have submitted my high school transcripts, diploma, or proof of graduation like a GED certificate to my college.

NOTE: Your college must receive your high school transcripts, diploma, or proof of graduation like a GED certificate before you proceed to Step Three.

Step Three: Fill out the Tuition Equity Eligibility Form

- ☐ Fill out the **Tuition Equity Eligibility Form**, [found here](#) or scan the QR code.

NOTE: There are several ways you can meet requirement #5 on the form, but the most common method is to **submit an affidavit**, which is found on the second page of the form.



Once you fill out the Tuition Equity Eligibility Form, you will be assessed to be eligible for “high school completer” status by the institution of your choice.

Step Four: Complete the MASFA application

- ☐ Fill out the **Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) application**, [found here](#) or scan the QR code.

The MASFA is the state-approved form equivalent to the FAFSA and will be used by the student’s institution to determine their eligibility for need-based financial aid.

NOTE: If you live with your parents or guardians, you will their financial information and signature to complete the application.

Filling out the MASFA doesn't guarantee financial aid, but it allows all students to be considered under equal terms.



Step Five: Stay Tuned!

- Your university or college should be in touch with you with further updates! Make sure to check your inbox and follow up and advocate for yourself to ensure your application is being processed.
- Have questions? Please contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at 617-391-6070 or osfa@osfa.mass.edu or check out this [helpful Q&A!](#)

