

Schools and PTOs Quick Guide: Safety To and From School

1.0 purpose of this quick guide

Provide schools and PTOs with information to help keep children impacted by ICE operations safe while going to and from school. It includes:

1. What makes this situation unique
2. Key support roles
3. Challenges and emerging solutions
4. What you can do ahead of a crisis
5. Appendix: tools from the front lines

2.0 what makes this situation unique

This emergency differs from other events. The **realities of impacted families and schools** include:

- Families unable to drive children to school or bus stops for fear of detention
- Impacted parents who may be detained during the day, leaving children unattended after school.
- ICE agents waiting near school property and bus stops, and following buses
- Families' and supporters' fear of being observed providing transportation to children in need.

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3.0 key support roles

Schools and PTOs have created new support roles to help get children safely to and from school:

Role	Definition
AM/PM Patrols	PTO or other parent volunteers on campus during drop off, pick up and recess, monitoring for ICE activity and notifying the principal if ICE agents appear.
Bus Stop Monitors	PTO or other parents assigned specific bus stops and monitoring for ICE activity and ensuring children are picked up by a parent.
Bus Patrol	Teacher, PTO or other parents assigned specific bus routes to provide additional monitoring and support bus drivers.
Family Transportation	<p>Highly trusted individuals in the community who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pick up and drop off children of impacted families• Understand and are trusted to follow security protocols to protect impacted families <p>Most often highly vetted parents as teachers need to be in the classroom ahead of class.</p>

4.0 challenges and emerging solutions

Once organized, this is straightforward, with few operational challenges.

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5.0 what you can do ahead of a crisis

Partner	What To Do Ahead of a Crisis
School Administrators	Talk with your district about pick up/drop off and bus stop safety protocols. Gain agreement that schools are the most effective direct connection to the impacted families. Ask the district for help if you believe your needs will be greater than your staff and PTO volunteers can manage, as need and available support is often mismatched, and districts can facilitate support across schools/neighborhoods.
	Develop an escalation plan for ICE on/near campus or at/near bus stops, use of tear gas, when to call 9-1-1
	If possible, gather information on most vulnerable bus routes and bus stops
	Work with the PTO to define the role the school will play versus the PTO. What can parents do so that monitoring stays off the teachers.
	Identify families that may need transportation for their children.
	Decide how you will message what the school is doing to help impacted families, recognizing that not all families will be aligned.
	Partner with the PTO to create a how-to for safety monitors and drivers.
	Create a communication, information sharing and safety plan and set up elements (e.g., signal groups, how to turn off location services)
	If you do not have many impacted families at your school, connect with other schools that do and offer to provide additional support
PTOs	Work with school administration to define the role the school will play versus the PTO.
	Establish key roles and assign trusted leaders (e.g., Pick Up/Drop Off/Recess Coordinator, Bus Stop Watch Coordinator, Monitors). Recognize that there are roles outside of safety (see getting food and financial assistance quick guides)
	Prepare volunteer sign up sheets
	Secure materials needed for monitoring including vests, whistles, name badges. Create messaging for bus stop monitors to put other parents at ease.

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6.0 tools from the front lines

Tool	Purpose	Link
Transportation and Safety Monitoring organizational chart	Establishes roles and assigns leader names	Add Link
Volunteer Email	Example email from PTO president to solicit volunteers	Add Link
Volunteer Sign Up Form	Allows volunteers to indicate what roles they are able to play	Add Link
Monitoring Tools	Explains what monitors need	Add Link
Monitoring Guidelines	Provides directions to monitors on what to do if ICE activity is seen near schools or bus stops	Add Link
Bus Stop Monitor Messages	Example of what a bus stop monitor could say to other parents to explain why they are there	Add Link
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