

Information in Response to Changes in Federal Immigration Policies

Dear Morton College Faculty and Staff:

As an open-access institution, Morton College for over 100 years has remained true to its core purpose “to enhance the quality of life of our diverse community through exemplary teaching and learning opportunities, community service, and life-long learning.”

The College recognizes that recent changes in federal immigration policies have brought uncertainty and concern among many of our students, community members, faculty and staff. This message is intended to help provide information to assist you and our students by connecting them to available resources and to communicate our steadfast commitment to creating a positive, welcoming and inclusive learning environment for all.

Legal Context and Institutional Policies

Federal, State and Local Policies

Morton College is dedicated to supporting the [Illinois TRUST and The Way Forward](#) acts, as well as the [Town of Cicero Safe Space Resolution](#), which reinforce our commitment to serving as a safe space for all students, regardless of immigration status. In addition, Student information, including immigration status, remains protected under the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). Key points include:

- Information cannot be disclosed without the student’s written consent or a valid judicial order.
- Administrative warrants, such as deportation orders, do not override FERPA protections.

Your Role as Faculty and Staff

Responding to Immigration Officials

In the unlikely event that you are approached by ICE or other immigration officials on campus:

1. Politely decline to provide information or access to campus facilities.
2. Refer officials to the President’s Office, which will liaison with the college’s legal counsel to verify the validity and legality of any warrants.
3. Notify your department chair or unit leader immediately.

Supporting Students

Faculty and staff play a critical role in maintaining a safe and supportive environment for students:

- Reaffirm that Morton College welcomes all students, regardless of immigration status.
- Remind students that with the college does not routinely document the immigration status of students (the exception being international students attending Morton on student visas).
- Share with them that their information, including immigration status, remains protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Avoid asking about or documenting a student's immigration status.
- Direct students to available resources including our Counseling Services and the Undocumented Student Liaison for additional support.

Campus Contacts

Undocumented Student Liaison: Melanny Buitron Loo can be reached at (708) 656-8000 Ext. 2153, or Melanny.buitronloor@morton.edu

Counseling Services: can be reached at (708) 656-8000 Ext. 2297, personalcounseling@morton.edu.

Guidance for Students

Additional resources for students and community members can be found at <https://www.morton.edu/campus-services/> under the tab *Undocumented Student Services*. Additional resources and information can be found at the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#).

Commitment to Our Values

As employees, we all embody Morton College's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment where every student succeeds and all employees thrive. In upholding our values of **Compassion, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Tolerance**, we all play a role in fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for the diverse communities we serve.

Thank you for your dedication to our students and our shared mission.

