

Submitter: X V
On Behalf Of: Local students and families
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

Attendance has gone down among certain demographics, there are fears that some families will not re-enroll in schools because they don't feel safe and have transitioned to online alternatives or left the country. In Morrow county specifically, there is a policy for interacting with Law Enforcement requests, but this relates to suspicion of a student committing a crime (drug use, vandalization, etc.) I have spoken with teachers currently employed by the district. plans exist in case of ICE presence on campus. It is natural for school boards to take a look at their policy (last reviewed in 2018) and make changes according to the extreme ICE activity in our own state. Parents, business leaders, and other community members attended a board meeting to ask about these concerns, but were not allowed to speak.

Due to voter demographics and very public comments made by school and district staff, I worry greatly about our students and their families. I worry that some may act on school time or their own personal time to invite and facilitate ICE coming into schools and communities. I urge you to support this and bill and help residents make informed decisions about taking/sending their children to school in case this happens.