



Illinois School Counselor Association

a state branch of the American School Counselor Association

a division of the
Illinois Counseling Association

The [Illinois School Counselors Association \(ISCA\)](#) joins the increasing number of professional organizations denouncing President Trump's Executive Order of January 27, 2017, barring "entry of all refugees to the United States for 120 days, [barring] Syrian refugees indefinitely, and [blocking] entry into the United States for 90 days for citizens of seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen." As confirmed by a Federal Appellate court ruling this past week that upheld the decision that the "Ban" is unconstitutional and discriminatory. As school counseling professionals it is imperative that we operate in line with the ASCA Ethical Standards (2016). The ASCA Ethical Standards state that "All students have the right to be respected, be treated with dignity and have access to school counseling programs that advocate for and affirm all students from diverse populations including but not limited to "ethnic/racial identity, nationality, age, social class, economic status, abilities/disabilities, language, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, family typed, religious/spiritual identity, emancipated minors, wards of the state, homeless youth and incarcerated youth." The Ethical Standards also state that "all students have the right to a safe environment promoting autonomy and justices and free from abuse, bullying, harassment and other forms of violence."

In this threatening time of confusion and uncertainty for some students, school counselors can serve as a beacon of trust, hope, and safety. ISCA encourages all school counselors to seek out assistance and support from other helping professionals, administration, and community resources to align with their advocacy efforts for students who fear deportation of family members, relocation, and too often are subject to harmful words of intimidation from peers. Being courageous in times of attack requires strong commitment to the service of others, a belief that shared voices matter, and that mass opposition can move decisions and policy.

For high school counselors working with students to formulate post-secondary plans, the International Association for College Admission Counseling is hosting a listing of school still accepting applications from the countries identified in the suspended travel ban. [Click here to access the list of schools.](#) Counselors who would like to engage their Congressional Representatives and Senators to further advocate for non-discriminatory and constitutional policies can find the contact information for your [Representatives](#) here and your [Senators](#) here.

We believe that a committed and unified presence is essential in advocating for all students speaking for those whose voices are often not heard. We applaud the efforts of Illinois School Counselors who have already taken a stand in their settings to support students and challenge discriminatory actions. ISCA will continue to monitor further movement and seek opportunities to connect our collective efforts

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