

SUPPORTING STUDENTS FROM IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Immigrant families may be hesitant to apply for health insurance and access health care because of fear that their immigration status may be known or affected.

How does this relate to educators?

Students and families may confide in teachers or school staff about their fears, questions, and concerns regarding accessing health care. It is important that educators are prepared to talk to families and provide resources to help them access the care they need and deserve.

How can educators support students from immigrant families in accessing health care?

Educators can reassure families that applying for health insurance will not affect their immigration status and that the information families provide in their applications will not be shared with federal immigration authorities.

Educators can also direct families to:

- 1) Sign up for health insurance.
Online: nystateofhealth.ny.gov
Phone: 1-855-355-5777 or Call 311 (ask for “navigator” or “enroller”)
- 2) Find a clinic online at <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>

Strategies educators can apply when having conversations with families...

- Provide a **non judgmental listening ear**. Undocumented immigrants, in particular, may experience a high level of uncertainty and anxiety with immigration concerns.
- Be **mindful of language** and choose words such as “undocumented” and “immigrant.”
- **Built trust** with families, but do not ask families to disclose their status.
- **Normalize** not having a citizenship status. Make sure students and families know that other families may have similar experiences.