

for TEACHERS, INSTRUCTORS, PROFESSORS, STAFF,
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PASTORS, ETC.

RESIST I.C.E.

INFORMATION, GUIDES, AND
STRATEGIES

TO COUNTER THE "SWAMP SWEEP" CAMPAIGN BY
I.C.E. IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

NOVEMBER 2025

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday and the end of our semester, I want to make sure that we are aware of the incoming ICE raids and how these might impact some of our students' end of semester grades.

ICE agents are in South Louisiana: "Around 250 federal border agents are set to descend on New Orleans in the coming weeks for a two-month immigration crackdown dubbed "Swamp Sweep" that aims to arrest roughly 5,000 people across southeast Louisiana and into southeast Mississippi, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press and three people familiar with the operation" (Brook, Cline, [Mississippi Free Press](#)).

New Orleans, especially, is bracing for this impact. We expect to see similar strategies that were employed in other cities: "The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) operation will be led by Gregory Bovino, a senior border patrol commander. Bovino has already overseen aggressive campaigns in Los Angeles, Chicago and, now, Charlotte and other cities in North Carolina, where the crackdowns have triggered large-scale protests and sometimes volatile interactions between federal agents and protesters amid aggressive arrest tactics" (Campbell, [The Guardian](#)).

As you may know, school campuses and campuses of higher learning are no longer considered protected spaces.

"On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded a Biden-era policy that protected certain areas—such as churches, school, and hospitals—from immigration enforcement, replacing it with an unreleased directive that gives ICE agents unbridled power to take enforcement actions in any of these spaces using so-called 'common sense.'" (Pearson, [NILC.org](#)).

This so-called 'swamp sweep' is not going to be limited to New Orleans, "Planning documents reviewed by The Associated Press show 250 Border Patrol agents are poised to focus on neighborhoods and commercial hubs throughout southeast Louisiana, the outlet reported Tuesday. The agents plan to fan out across a region stretching from New Orleans through Jefferson, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes north to Baton Rouge and into Mississippi" (Finn, Nicholson, Nola.com). We can expect to see increased ICE presence in Baton Rouge as soon as this weekend.

So, what do we do if an ICE agent shows up on campus for a student or colleague? (**this is not legal advice, and I am not a lawyer**)

While the general public spaces of campus are considered fair game for ICE officers, private spaces are not. You never need to let an ICE agent into an office, lounge, or classroom without verifying a judicial warrant or valid subpoena. It could be argued that the entire third and fourth floors of LAB, for example, are private spaces. You can say, "I can't give you permission to enter."

ICE agents are known for using deceptive tactics and even using false warrants. It is acceptable for you to verify a warrant/subpoena or call the Dean's office/HSS and get someone over to verify the warrant. You can say, "I have called my department, and they are coming over to verify your warrant before you can move forward."

The less you say, the better. Talk to officers as little as possible.

1) Do not give ICE access without a signed judicial warrant

- a) A worker can say: “I can’t give you permission to enter. You must speak with my supervisor/employer.” A supervisor/ employer can say “I am not authorizing you to enter without a signed judicial warrant.”
- b) If ICE agents have questions or requests, workers should say nothing, or say, “You are not allowed to enter. Talk to my supervisor/employer.”
- c) If ICE agents try to enter a private area, you should say: “This is a private area. You cannot enter without a judicial warrant signed by a judge. Do you have a judicial warrant?”

2) Identifying a judicial warrant or subpoena

- a) A judicial warrant or subpoena must be signed by a judge and say “U.S. District Court” or a state court at the top. Sometimes, ICE agents try to use an administrative warrant to enter, which does NOT allow agents to enter private areas without your permission. Administrative warrants are not from a court and are from the “Department of Homeland Security” and may be on Forms I-200 or I-205.
- b) Do not help ICE agents sort people by immigration status or country of origin.
- c) Watch the agents and see if they are complying with what’s written in the warrant in terms of the location or person to be “searched.”

Image from "Immigration Enforcement at Work Tool" - materials based on National Immigration Law Center, American Civil Liberties Union, HIAS PA, and the AFL-CIO Frontline Solidarity Toolkit (2025).

With our students, FERPA is on our side. If an ICE agent asks you about a student, you shouldn't say anything at all. The less you can say, in general, the better. If you need to say anything, you can say: "The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 requires that I withhold information that could identify students to third parties, including federal officials."

Question: What power does the Superintendent have if the federal government requests information on a student or parent for the purposes of immigration enforcement?

Answer: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) requires that schools withhold information that could identify students to third parties, including federal immigration officials.

*Image from "A guide for School and Community Partnerships,"
prepared by Arkansas Immigration Defense.*

This is a link to a FAQ of best practices from the CT AAUP folks (of course, we're in Mississippi not Connecticut):



If you want more information, I encourage you to look through these resources:

"Immigration Enforcement at Work Toolkit"



"FAQ ICE Enforcement on Campuses: What you need to know" from Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration (Penn State Law and Cornell Law).



Lastly, our students who are at-risk or whose families are at-risk are experiencing unprecedented stress, anxiety, and trauma. Petitions have gone out requesting that Louisiana schools allow K-12 students to finish the semester via virtual learning. Even if our students themselves are safe, their parents might not be. They may now be responsible for picking up younger siblings or staying at home with them, etc.

Please keep this in mind if a student comes to you seeking accommodation. These are unusual circumstances; we can meet them with unusual responses.

P.S. If you see or hear whistles, this is part of the grassroots organizing efforts to alert people to ICE presence. Three short whistles indicates that ICE has been spotted in your vicinity, and one long sustained whistle (or repeated long sustained whistles) indicates that someone is in the process of being taken.

WHY A WHISTLE?

- A SIMPLE TOOL FOR FAST ALERTS
- LOUD. RECOGNIZABLE. IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE.
- OUR VOICES ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

**CODE 1:
ICE NEARBY
BLOW IN SHORT
BURSTS:
PRE-PRE-PRE!
→ ALERTS THE
COMMUNITY THAT
ICE AGENTS ARE IN
THE AREA**

**CODE 2:
CODE RED
BLOW IN LONG
BLASTS:
PREEEEE-PREEEEE-PREEEEE
→ ICE IS DETAINING SOMEONE
FORM A CROWD
STAY LOUD
WITHOUT VIOLENCE
DON'T STAY SILENT**

ON THE STREETS

**WHISTLES GUIDE
PEOPLE TO:**

- FOLLOW ICE CARAVANS
- CATCH UP WITH THE CROWD
- ALERT NEIGHBORS TO JOIN IN
- NOISE = VISIBILITY