

# Schools Must Serve All Children

## Immigration status can't be used to deny enrollment

The Obama administration issued guidance Thursday to remind public school districts that children cannot be denied an education based on their or their parents' immigration status.

The guidance states that school districts should be flexible in accepting documents from parents to prove a child's age and to show that a child lives within a school's attendance area. It also provides specific examples of the types of documents that many schools have accepted to prove a child's age or residence.

A letter with information about the new guidance was sent out to states and school districts.

"We want to be sure every school leader understands the legal requirements under the Constitution and federal laws, and it is our hope that this update will address some of the misperceptions out there," Depart-



Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Attorney General Eric Holder meet with a preschool class prior to participating in a discussion earlier this year on the importance of universal access to preschool. Thursday, the officials reminded school districts they cannot deny an education based on their parent's immigration status.

ment of Education Secretary Arne Duncan said, "The message here is clear: let all children who live in your district enroll in your public schools."

The new guidance comes after

the Department of Justice and the Department of Education issued similar guidance in 2011 to help schools understand their responsibilities under the Supreme Court's decision in Plyler v. Doe. That deci-

sion made it clear that public schools must provide all children equal access to an education regardless of immigration status.

But Duncan said that despite the 2011 guidance, his department's

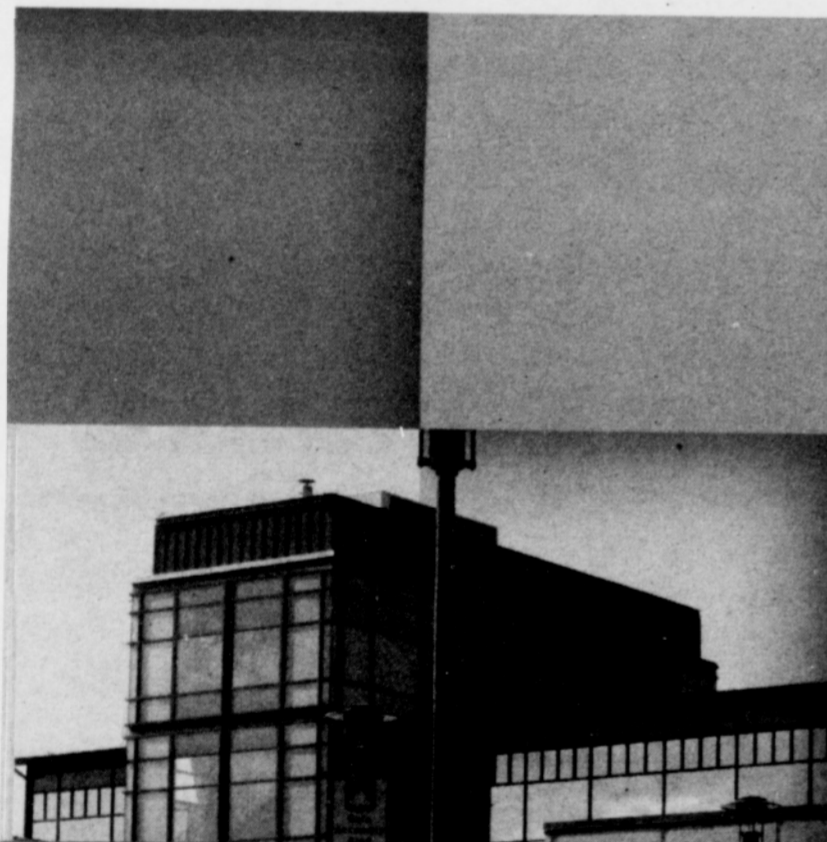
Office of Civil Rights has received 17 complaints of school leaders acting "inappropriately." Those complaints came from all over the country, including Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

"In several instances, school leaders are inappropriately requiring information that may be barring or discouraging students from ever enrolling in school," Duncan said. "That behavior is unacceptable and it must change."

Attorney General Eric Holder echoed Duncan's remarks.

"We have continued to hear troubling reports of actions being taken by school districts around the country that have a chilling effect on school enrollment, raising barriers for undocumented children and children from immigrant families who seek to receive the public education to which they are entitled," he said on the conference call with reporters.

Holder said public school districts "have an obligation to enroll students regardless of immigration status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin."



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An artists' rendering shows the new Beauchamp Recreation and Wellness Center coming to the University of Portland campus in north Portland.

## Campus Recreation Center Coming

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday for a new recreation and wellness center on the University of Portland campus in north Portland.

Named in recognition of the school's retiring president, Rev. E. William Beauchamp, the center is estimated to cost \$23 million and will be constructed entirely from donor-supported funding, school officials said.

Set to open in early fall next year, the building is expected to become a dynamic focal point on campus and enhance the physical and mental health of students, faculty, and staff. Designs call for a modern facility with state-of-the-art equipment and space to accommodate the growing university community.

The center's main level will have three gyms, locker rooms, administrative office space, and an outdoor recreation area and bike shop. Overlooking the main floor will be treadmills and stationary bikes. There will also be three wood floor studios for spin and yoga classes.

Suspended above all three recreational gyms will be a track designed so that eight laps equal a mile. There will also be a foot stretching area, foot wellness suite, and rock wall for climbing.