

Delivered via email to andrea.campbell@state.ma.us

August 28, 2024

The Honorable Andrea Joy Campbell
Attorney General
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Request For Investigation Of Saugus Public Schools' Student Enrollment Policy

Dear Attorney General Campbell:

Your office has issued powerful guidance to Massachusetts' public schools, outlining their responsibility to welcome all schoolchildren they are duty-bound to educate, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or immigration status. On behalf of the client communities we serve, we ask that you now build on that guidance and formally open an investigation into the exclusionary student enrollment practices of the Saugus Public Schools ("SPS").

Earlier this month, we sent the attached [letter](#) to SPS's School Committee, urging them to revise their Student Enrollment Policy. As the letter outlines in detail, the policy unlawfully denies enrollment to families who do not complete the Town of Saugus Census. Further, the policy includes overly-stringent residency and proof-of-identity requirements, which have a disproportionate impact on immigrant and mixed status families. We asked that the School Committee revise the policy prior to the start of the 2024-2025 school year, so that no child would be unlawfully excluded from SPS.

Unfortunately, the School Committee has failed to act. While a School Committee meeting was held on August 22, 2024, the School Committee did not even put this urgent matter on its agenda for discussion. However, during this meeting, the School Committee Chair stated publicly that the policy will not be changed. School began in Saugus this week, with the exclusionary policy in place.

In light of the urgency of this matter, we ask that your office immediately open an investigation into SPS's enrollment policies and practices, particularly as they apply to immigrant schoolchildren and those experiencing housing instability. Opening an investigation will not only protect the rights of schoolchildren in Saugus, but it will also send a much-needed message to all school districts throughout the Commonwealth: that exclusionary enrollment policies are illegal and will not be permitted to stand. As you are aware, there is growing [public awareness](#) of such discriminatory, anti-immigrant practices, especially with the recent [media coverage](#) of Saugus' enrollment policy.

We are available as a resource and can be reached at the contact information below. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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