

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [EPS.MailList](#)
Subject: Proposed "Public Charge" Rules
Date: Thursday, November 1, 2018 6:39:17 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Colleague:

During the past month, our schools and categorical programs office have heard concerns from families and students about a Homeland Security *proposed* rule change for immigrant families. My office was alerted directly by a message from the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (see below). The *proposed* rule change could impact how families are considered for legal status based upon public services those families use.

The proposed rule change DOES NOT involve services students of immigrant families receive in our schools, including food service and special education services.

However, discussions about changes to the ways immigrants may access legal status understandably increase concern and create confusion. Emotions are strong and varied, as are opinions. Three things to keep in mind as you think about or are asked about the proposed rule change:

1. **Our schools are “home away from home” for over 20,000 students. Our district is home to families that speak 97 different languages.** We are a very diverse school district in Washington State. No matter the shifting sands of politics around us, we will remain resolutely committed to the safety and security of our schools; to equity of opportunity for each child in our care; and to our mission to inspire, educate and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community and thrive in a global society *each and every student*.
2. **You can inform yourselves.** The proposed rule appeared on the Federal Register Oct.10, and can be accessed at www.regulations.gov. Enter 1615-AA22 in the search bar.
3. **I join Governor Inslee in opposition to the proposal.** While I am relieved to know the proposal does not impact our families’ ability to access school services, it could limit non-school programs such as food stamps, housing assistance, and non-emergency Medicaid which are essential to many of our families. You and I know that when families are without basic services when they need them, the immediate and long-term impacts are felt each day in our classrooms. This would create more barriers to student learning, which is in opposition to our work to remove barriers to our students’ success.

We often refer to our district culture and the emphasis we place on *each* student as *The Everett Way*. We are richer for our diversity and our ability to stay the course in turbulent and uncertain times. If you were with the district last year, you may recall my emails on [January 31, 2017](#) and [June 13, 2017](#) regarding the safety and security of immigrant and transgender students. I trust this message serves to reinforce that core value, and I thank you for your support of a safe and welcoming learning environment for each student.

Again, thank you for the work you do every day for our students and for your commitment to *Everett’s Way* of valuing and advocating for each student.

Very best regards,

Gary

Dr. Gary Cohn
Superintendent



gcohn@everettsd.org
425-385-4009 | 425-385-4012 Fax

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families"

<DCYFcommunications@public.govdelivery.com>

Date: October 18, 2018 at 4:47:06 PM PDT

To: gcohn@everettsd.org

Subject: Public Charge Resource Documents

Reply-To: DCYFcommunications@public.govdelivery.com

Dear ESIT Stakeholders:

You may have seen in the news that the **federal government is proposing a new set of rules** that will have negative impacts for many **immigrant families**. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has proposed significant changes to the way the “public charge test” in federal law is applied to immigrants seeking to obtain legal status. The “public charge” test was created to identify people who may depend on government benefits as their main source of income. If the U.S. government determines someone is likely to become a “public charge,” they can deny admission to the U.S. or refuse an application for lawful permanent residency.

This new proposal is causing widespread fear and targets immigrants who use programs that help participants meet their basic needs, including Medicaid, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, aka “food stamps”), and Section 8 housing.

The proposed rule was **posted to the Federal Register on October 10, 2018**. Individuals and organizations can submit public comments and share stories about how the proposed rules would affect them and the communities they serve through December 10, 2018. To view the proposed rule or **submit your own comment, click here: www.regulations.gov, then enter: 1615-AA22 in the search bar.**

We are deeply concerned about what this means for people in our community. We know that when people go without the services they need, the immediate and long-term impacts are harmful to individuals, families and communities. Our State leaders, including [Governor Inslee](#), are standing up to oppose this change. Governor Inslee’s statement can be found [here](#).

We have also attached **two resource documents** – one for ESIT [providers](#) and another for ESIT [families](#). Both include talking points that you can use when sharing information. We will share additional resources as they become available. (The documents are also linked to our website.)

Our bottom line message for families is this: Part C/ESIT services are exempt from the current public charge policy AND the proposed rule. Even if the proposed rule is finalized, **Part C services will not be considered as part of a public charge test, including those that are billed to Medicaid**. And we recognize that each person’s situation is different: Immigrants who are concerned about the impact of using public benefits on their immigration case should get advice from an [immigration attorney](#) or accredited representative.

At this time of heightened stress, we will continue to prioritize quality services for all children and families and will work to support the needs of families impacted by this proposed rule.

- [ESIT_Providers_FactSheet_on_Public_Charge.pdf](#)
- [ESIT_Families_FactSheet_on_Public_Charge.pdf](#)

DCYF logo



Questions?

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#).

This email was sent to gcohn@everettsd.org using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families · 1110 Jefferson Street · Olympia, WA 98501 · (360) 725-4665

