



Welcome

Organizing 101 & 201: A Practical Training on ICE, Schools, and Community Power



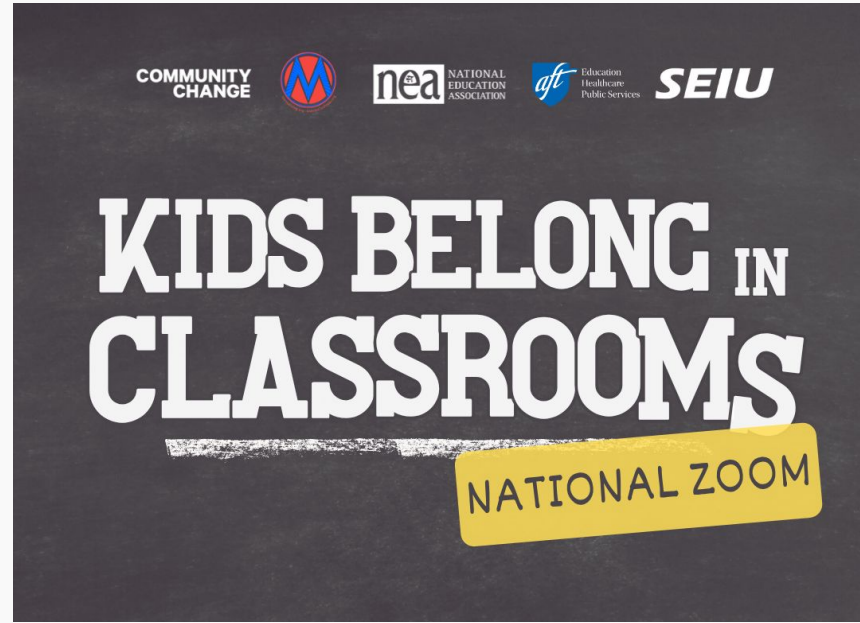
Community Change Action

National organization that **builds power from the ground up**. We believe that effective and enduring social movements must be **led by those most impacted by injustice** and **voting is one essential lever of change**. The work we are building together now is another.

*Community Change, was founded in 1968 by leaders of the civil rights, labor, and anti-poverty movements following the deaths of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, as a living legacy to the senator. Its founders' vision and their charge—to **build power through grassroots leadership, to challenge the government to be a force for good, to focus on poor people, especially poor people of color**—are just as relevant today as they were then.*



This Kids Belong in Classrooms Training is brought to you by:



Together We Can

- Create a welcoming environment for all families & school employees that keeps our kids, parents, educators, and school workers safe!
- Stand up against anybody trying to separate children from their families!
- Foster joy, pride, and mental wellness through community-building & support!

Who is today's training for?

- Parents and caregivers
- Teachers & school workers
- School administrators
- Community allies
- Anyone just getting started
- Anyone ready to level up

Share in the chat: If you're already organizing, share a win!

Agenda

- 1 Why we organize
- 2 You're already an organizer
- 3 9 Steps to building power
- 4 Specific action ideas for schools
- 5 Resources & next steps
- 6 Q&A

Why We Organize

No child should have to worry about their parents or caregivers being taken from them; especially on the way to school. No parent should worry about ICE on their child's campus.

Safety

Protect kids,
parents, educators
& school workers

Belonging

Build welcoming
communities
where all families
thrive

Joy

Foster pride,
connection &
mental wellness

You're Probably Already A Community Organizer

Have you ever...



Planned a birthday party?

- ✓ Transferable skill: Logistics, coordination, outreach



Organized a carpool?

- ✓ Transferable skill: Scheduling, trust-building, communication



Facilitated a meeting?

- ✓ Transferable skill: Leadership, listening, decision-making



Rallied people around a cause?

- ✓ Transferable skill: Messaging, motivation, community building

You likely already have many transferable skills that will serve you well as you organize your community.

Build Your Foundation - Steps 1-4

1 Find out what's already happening

Ask around. Get involved. Don't reinvent the wheel, plug into existing networks first.

2 Start talking with others

Seek people with similar concerns. Ask open-ended questions. Take notes on their story, strengths, and risk tolerance. Share your own why.

3 Map out your resources

Who can drive? Who can speak to media? Any lawyers? Writers? Who can volunteer remotely or make calls? Map nonprofit orgs, free printing, and mental health resources.

4 Protect data privacy & safety

Never write down immigration status. Use two-factor authentication. Use Signal for encrypted messaging. Volunteers may use a name other than their full legal name.

But how do you find out what's already happening?

Ask around to:

- Parents, teachers, administrators at schools
 - PTAs, group chats, neighborhood groups
- Unions and union members
- Local organizations that serve immigrant communities
- Places of worship
- Community and cultural centers
- Social media accounts like mutual aid

You can also search for local efforts on social media and traditional media.

Share in the chat: who would you ask first?

Take Action - Steps 5-9

5 **Start a project**

Come up with a vision. Safe passage networks, meal trains, awareness campaigns. Be ready to express your vision clearly to others.

6 **Ask for help**

Most people who care want to help! Be specific in your ask: who, what, when, where, why. Be mindful of people's risk tolerance.

7 **Host a great organizing meeting**

Virtual or in person. Use introductions, set ground rules. Smaller meetings for strategy; larger ones for awareness & calls to action.

8 **Stay organized**

Keep a contact list. Establish clear communication channels like group chats, email list, phone tree. Build a resource library of links and docs.

9 **Chaos & grace**

Don't let perfect be the enemy of good. Embrace momentum. Give grace to others and yourself. Getting started matters most.

Action Idea 1: Educate Your Community on Their Rights

Red Cards

A tool to assert your rights and protect yourself and your loved ones during ICE encounters.

Print in any language!

Ways to take action

- Host a red card-making parent coffee at a local café
- Pass out cards at school drop-off or pick-up
- Ask local businesses to keep them on their counters
- Host a Know Your Rights Zoom with a local immigration attorney
- Present at parent association meetings
- Table at school events to share KYR information
- Ask your principal to distribute to all school staff

Action Idea 2: Build a Walking School Bus

A morning & afternoon parent volunteer team for safe arrival and dismissal of all students. Adjust as needed for communities with more driving, public transit, etc.

- 1 Host a planning meeting**
Map high foot-traffic routes to school. Identify where parent volunteers should be stationed—like a crossing guard.
- 2 Build a volunteer sign-up**
Create shift sign-ups for morning, afternoon, and key locations near the school.
- 3 Assign a volunteer captain**
This person sends reminder texts via Signal the night before and communicates who's at which station.
- 4 Make yourselves visible**
Wear vests, arm bands, carry signs or silly hats. Make it fun and hopeful!
- 5 Offer escort support**
Offer bilingual fliers to vulnerable families. For detained families, door-to-door escorting may be needed for months.
- 6 Debrief & improve**
After your first week, hold a follow-up call to share best practices and adapt.



Action Idea #3: Ask Your School for an Emergency Preparedness Plan

Schools prepare for all kinds of emergencies. ICE enforcement near campus requires the same preparation.

What to ask your school for:

- A point person to monitor school entrances
- A point person to review any ICE warrants
- A point person to observe & document ICE activity
- Training for staff on interacting with ICE agents
- Written policy + signage on private vs. public areas
- A roster of local pro-bono immigration legal services
- School counseling referrals for affected students

What schools can send home:

- Know Your Rights information + rapid response numbers
- Reminder to update emergency contacts (2+ per child)
- Family Preparedness Plan toolkits
- Referrals to local KYR trainings with immigration orgs
- Info on who serves as immigration resources coordinator

Tip: Ask as a group. If you feel intimidated, organize with other parents to request the meeting together.

Action Idea #4: Foster Joy, Pride, and Cultural Celebration

Welcome Banners

Display 'Everyone is Welcome Here' banners in classrooms.

Library Book Drives

Donate books that celebrate immigrant communities.

Community Murals

Paint murals celebrating neighborhood diversity.

Mental Health Resources

Share wellness toolkits from UndocuHealth & Informed Immigrant.

Heritage Month Events

Celebrate music, dance, food & culture of all communities.

Buy Out Local Vendors

Buy from immigrant-owned vendors for school events.

Kid-Friendly Activism

Bubbles, sign-making, park story-times that affirm immigrant identity.

Service Learning

Grocery drives for families who are afraid to leave home.

Protecting each other isn't only about the hardest moments—it's about keeping spirits high and minds well.



Action Idea #5 & 6: Policy Change & Community Connections

5. Advocate for Policy Change

- Designate your school as a Safe Zone
- Start a Safe Passage task force with city coordination
- Adjust bus routes for safer passage in high-density neighborhoods
- Create a compassion fund for legal & other costs
- Set up virtual learning programs for deported students
- Develop district-wide parent notification if ICE comes on campus

6. Connect with your neighborhood

- Support nannies who frequent local parks near your school
- Introduce yourself to street vendors—build trust & emergency partnerships
- Buy out vendors for school events (safer spaces)
- Put up pro-immigrant signage in local small businesses
- Adopt a corner, Home Depot, or car wash near your school
- Paint community murals celebrating neighborhood diversity

Key Resources

Know Your Rights

- ILRC Red Cards
- ACLU Guide for Schools & Teachers (state by state guides)
- NEA Guidance on Immigration Issues

School Safety Plans

- AFT Immigrant & Refugee Children: Guide for Educators
- ILRC: Protecting Immigrants In Schools
- NEA Supporting Immigrant Families

Safe Passage

- Free DC Back to School Community Safety Toolkit
- National Center for Safe Routes to Schools
- Immigrant Defense Project: Know Your Rights in Your Car

Mental Health & Joy

- United We Dream UndocuHealth Resilience Toolkit
- Informed Immigrant Mental Health Toolkit
- Immigrants Rising Wellness Support Groups

Start Small

Pick ONE idea that feels right for your school community.

Then come back for more.

Together we can:

- Create welcoming environments for all families
- Stand up against family separation
- Foster joy, pride & mental wellness
- Build lasting community power

The Kids Belong in Classrooms Toolkit Includes Tips for:

- Pass out know your rights materials to your school community.
- Create a school emergency preparedness plan.
- Building Morning Arrival and Dismissal Support Teams.
- Fostering joy & culture pride in your school community.
- Advocating for local policy change.
- Deepening the connection with your local community around your school.



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**Thank you for joining
us!**

