



**Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda  
Union Free School District**

*Office of the Superintendent*

**Sabatino Cimato**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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Dear Ken-Ton Community,

We understand that there has been a great deal of discussion regarding immigration policy and its impact on schools. I want everyone in our community to feel confident that we take our responsibility of cultivating a safe and welcoming environment for students and staff extremely seriously. Not only do we want to make our schools safe places for students and staff, but we also want everyone to feel supported.

Ken-Ton Schools will continue to remain compliant with applicable state/federal laws and regulations while fostering a healthy and safe educational environment for all. The NYS Education Department has released detailed guidance for schools, which you can read in full on the [NYS ED website](#). It is helpful for the community to be aware of what this guidance specifies. The following is a summary:

- All children ages 5-21 are entitled to a free public education regardless of immigration status.
- Schools are prohibited from gathering information related to a student's immigration status.
- The Federal Education and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA) of 1974 prevents the disclosure of personally identifiable information without parental consent unless it is in response to a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
- Law enforcement officers may not remove a student from school property or interrogate a student without the consent of the student's parent or a person in parental relation, except in limited circumstances such as addressing an imminent safety situation or in response to specific documentation such as judicial order or warrant.
- Families are encouraged to make sure their primary contact information as well as emergency contact information is up-to-date with current phone numbers.

As educators, we are always mindful of our responsibility to ensure our schools remain safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for all students while fostering a culture of understanding and respect. This is especially true when students are navigating complex and sensitive issues. We must treat everyone with kindness and empathy, regardless of background. We must validate students' feelings while also reassuring them that they are valued and supported in our schools.

For any students/families who may be struggling with fear, stress, or anxiety, please remember that our Family Support Center is a resource that is always available to you. You can reach them at 716-874-8510 or by emailing Director Kari Schultz at [kschultz@ktufsd.org](mailto:kschultz@ktufsd.org). Additionally, the support of school counselors, psychologists, and social workers are available for students in all buildings.

We are much more than a school district community. We are a family and our students will continue to be at the heart of everything we do.

Sincerely,

Sabatino Cimato  
Superintendent of Schools

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*The Ken-Ton school community will provide our students with the supports, tools and diverse opportunities needed to meet the challenges of an ever changing world.*