



Have a question? Call or stop by and ask. The ARPS Family Center is for everyone!

Sponsored Programs

Computer Program

Repurposed Computers given out to eligible families.

Juntos We Play Events

Events hosted in the community throughout the school year.

Project Backpack

Backpacks distributed annually to district families.

Youth Engagement

Students are at the center of our work. We support several programs such as: "They Made it so can I", Dialogue Forums, College Access Group,

Intergenerational Equity Group, Youth Leadership Groups, etc.

Steps to Success

Tier 3 long term family support program offered within the ARPS Family Center that supports the academic success of students.

Home Visit Project

School and District Staff visit homes to connect with families and partner for student success.

Before and After School Programs

Before and After school programs are available at all elementary schools to support student academic success.

VELA

The VELA Program is afterschool support for all students at the middle school.



collegeessayguy.com

ARPS Family Center News Letter

Dr. Marta Guevara

Director of Student & Family Engagement



<http://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2015 1>

No Longer Invisible

We are a nation of immigrants, some documented some not. In our District we welcome and educate many undocumented students. Their journeys to our schools vary greatly, but they share the dream of having better lives with the promise of an education. Some of our undocumented students come to us from places where violent gangs rule and people disappear without a trace. Many were left behind to live

How to Support our Undocumented Students

While each student is unique and deserves individual attention in their educational journey to success, all undocumented students can benefit from the following:

1. Every student must be supported by every staff person they come in contact with. In our district, every student must be known well by, at least, one adult working with them. Staff must make every effort to establish a trusting, helping, working relationship with the students. Education is their key to freedom and breaking the cycle of poverty. Everyone has a role!
2. Trust is important and a key factor to building relationships and supporting all students with undocumented status. Please do not ask students to self-identify. Choose, instead, to

Every one of us unless we're Native American has an ancestor who was born somewhere else," Obama said. "That's what makes America special. That's what makes us strong. The basic idea of welcoming immigrants to our shores is central to our way of life, it is in our DNA," Barack Obama

with relatives, while their parents earned enough cash to secure housing and find a safe community to "send for them". This process often lasts several years. While time passes, these children are often neglected, go without proper nutrition or access to health care and are unable to attend school (it costs money to attend). Before long, families become fragmented, children are adultified, guilt and resentment grows, while mental illness and anguish take over.

identify yourself as an ally/supporter.

3. Educate yourself about the resources available to undocumented students in our district and local communities. The ARPS Family Center is partnering with many agencies and programs to support students and their families. Feel free to call, email or stop by for support!
4. Be aware that many undocumented students who arrive to our community have done so with the help of someone who charged them and their families a lot of money to facilitate their journey crossing the border into the USA. Because of

Resources



pairproject.org

PAIR is the leading provider of pro bono immigration legal services to asylum-seekers and immigrants unjustly detained in Massachusetts.

[Immigration Equality's FAQ](#)

[on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#)

[National Immigration Law Center](#)

[Scholarship Resources](#)

[Choose Your Future](#)

bigfuture.collegeboard.org

<http://dreamactivist.org/ourstory/>

Center for New Americans

<http://www.cnam.org/>

National Immigration Law Center

www.nilc.org/

<http://theniya.org/>

[Got PapersGot Dreams](#)

ARPS Family Center
Amherst-Pelham Regional
Middle School
170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:00pm

Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Phone:
(413) 362-1875

Fax:
(413) 549-1036

- astronomical fees (up to \$15,000 per person) for this "service", students may have to work many hours to help pay their debt. Understand that many of these young people have to work for their survival and not working is not an option. This, of course, affects the amount of time they can devote to homework and special projects assigned to be completed during out of school hours and participate in additional activities.
- Staff working directly with undocumented students should learn about local/federal policies and legislation affecting undocumented students. Given the new administration at the federal level, it is necessary they have access to current information, that they understand the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), DACA+, and other programs. It is important that staff know where to refer students to attain the necessary and current information to support them. The ARPS Family Center can help staff navigate this.
 - We must all help students understand that their current immigration status does not dictate what their future holds. Staff can help reassure them that their status is transitional and provide them the information they need to help them find pathways to support and success.
 - We can connect students to others in the school/community who can support them, making sure they know they are not alone and that others have been successful in pursuing their education and have prospered. The ARPS Family Center has information and stories to share and there are online resources they can access.
 - Make sure students are accessing reputable legal counsel. Unfortunately for many, not having accurate information has cost them a lot of money, wasted time and missed deadlines to access programs. The Center for New Americans offers support and referrals to local attorneys and programs.
 - It takes a village to raise a child and for most undocumented students, family is incredibly important and their most significant lifeline. Make sure you engage parents/guardians in all matters related to their education and well-being.
 - Help create spaces for students to express themselves for who they are and not who we assume they are or expect them to be (i.e. the stereotypes many still face). Help students wanting to share their stories do so in a safe, supportive environment.
 - Help raise awareness of what students are facing in school, their jobs and communities. Sharing information can lead to support and understanding. Students may want to form a club to help raise awareness of their stories and of those of other marginalized groups.
 - Be a good listener and keep an open mind. Accept that you do not necessarily understand what it means to be in these students' shoes. When you do not understand something they have shared, ask questions and work with the student. Remember that it is their life and their future that is at the center of your relationship.

Translations

The district provides interpreters for staff to be able to communicate with families who are not proficient in English. You can contact Yahdira Torres in the district office at 362-1871 or torresy@arps.org