

Recruitment, Admissions, & Counseling

Today we will talk about the pitfalls or areas where mistakes are made in recruitment, admissions, and counseling.

A lot of times, it is simply because these are items, we look at everyday or only see at certain times of year and we expect them to be correct from the previous year or last time we used them.

What is a community of national origin? How can we tell if there is a community of national origin in area that we service?

Newspapers, grocery stores of their origin, churches, or social clubs (Polish club, Irish Hall).

What were the facts of Plyler v. Doe? In 1975, the Texas Legislature authorized local school districts to deny enrollment in public schools to foreignborn children who were not “legally admitted” to the United States.¹ Two years later, the Tyler Independent School District adopted a policy requiring foreign-born students to pay tuition if they were not “legally admitted.”² Under the school district’s policy, children were considered “legally admitted” if (1) they possessed documentation showing that they were legally present in the United States, or (2) federal immigration authorities confirmed they were in the process of securing such documentation.³ Shortly thereafter, a group of students from Mexico who could not establish that they were

“legally admitted” brought a class action lawsuit challenging the policy. The district court, after making extensive findings of fact, held that the policy violated the Constitution and was also “preempted” by federal immigration law.⁴ A federal appeals court upheld the injunction, although its decision rested on constitutional rather than preemption grounds.⁵ The school district then filed a petition with the Supreme Court, which granted the case for review.

Proof of Age.

The district would need to explain the purpose for age inquiries. If the purpose is to verify the student’s age, the Plyler guidance explains that while a district may request information or documentation to establish the student’s date of birth.

School officials may request documentation to show that a student falls within the school district’s minimum and maximum age requirements. **School districts typically accept a variety of documents for this purpose, such as**

religious, hospital, or physician's certificate showing date of birth; an entry in a family bible; an adoption record; an affidavit from a parent; or previously verified school records.

A school district may not prevent or discourage your child from enrolling in or attending school because he or she lacks a birth certificate or has a foreign birth certificate.

Social Security Numbers.

If the inquiry for the student's (or parent's) SSN is for enrollment purposes, a school district must not—as the Plyler guidance makes clear—deny enrollment to a student if her or she (or his or her parent) chooses not to provide his or her social security number.

Some school districts request a student's social security number during enrollment to use as a student identification number, or licensing boards.

Many legal residents are also resistant to giving out SSNs due to their desire to protect their identity and to minimize risks associated with identity theft and financial fraud situations.

If a school district chooses to request a student's social security number, it must: (1) inform you and your child that providing it is voluntary and that refusing to provide it will not bar your child from enrolling in or attending school, and (2) explain for what purpose the number will be used.

A school district may not prevent your child from enrolling in or attending school if you choose not to provide your child's social security number.

A school district may not require you to provide your own social security number in order for your child to enroll in or attend school.

Proof of Residency in the School District.

School officials may request proof that you live within the boundaries of the school district.

School districts typically accept a variety of documents for this purpose, such as copies of phone and water bills, lease agreements, affidavits, or other documents. A school district's requirements to establish residency must be applied in the same way for all children.

A school district may not ask about your or your child's citizenship or immigration status to establish residency within the district, nor may a school district deny a homeless child (including a homeless child who is undocumented) enrollment because he or she cannot provide the required documents to establish residency.

Race or Ethnicity Data.

School districts have some Federal and state obligations to report race and ethnicity data about the students in their schools. A school district may request that you provide your child's race or ethnicity for this purpose.

However, a school district may not bar your child from enrolling if you choose not to provide your child's race or ethnicity.

Prerequisites for admission examples:

Bio Med or Pre-engineering may have some requirements for certain math or science classes prior to taking either of those programs.

IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LEARNERS

The sending schools should know if their students are ELL. They should have documentation supporting that the student is an ELL student. They should share the documentation with you.

If they don't.....

One thing we need to do when enrolling a potential ELL student is to identify if they are an ELL student.

HOW?

Home language survey (HLS)

Primary or home language other than English(PHLOTE)

Schools are required to have either one of the surveys in place to accurately and timely identify

ELL students and determine if they are ELL students through a valid and reliable assessment.

ELL assessments must assess the proficiency of students in all four domains of English (i.e., speaking, listening, reading, and writing).

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Be sure to talk to students if any IEP/504 accommodations can be used on state/national licensing.

Color Blindness and Dyslexia

These are the two biggest disabilities in schools today. 1 in 12 men are colorblind, 1 in 200 females are colorblind.

Dyslexia, use a Sans Serif font. Easiest for individuals with dyslexia to read. Block letters or solid letters. No fancy designs on the letters

Disproportionality Is Not a Per Se Violation

Talk about school with Hispanic students in the morning welding class because they all play soccer for their sending school.

Rubrics

More objective, set guidelines for acceptance, back-up when a parent complains about their student not getting accepted into a TC.

Yes, rubrics can be adjusted to fit each program area. Health Careers not the same as most T&I programs. Bio-Med and Pre-Engineering not the same as Health.

It is best (if able) to have more than one person interview and grade/fill out rubric for each student.

Best practice would be to have an instructor interview potential students as well. Sometimes they can get a feel for a student who may not look like an ideal student but the instructor can identify

students who will be a good student/fit in the program.