

School districts told to monitor enrollment of Alabama immigrant students

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The impact of Alabama's new immigration law, which requires K-12 schools to check the immigration status of their students, could be felt in several states, including Florida.

Sunshine State News reports today that "a number of school districts across Florida have been advised to monitor enrollment numbers for Hispanic migrant families relocating from Alabama after a federal judge upheld that state's new immigration enforcement law.

The online news outlet adds that "Florida's Education Estimating Conference said so far they haven't seen any influx in the counties bordering Alabama or in counties such as Osceola, Hardee and Volusia where migrant families may seek agriculture employment," and that the "Alabama Department of Education stated that on Oct 3, 5 percent of the state's Hispanic students didn't show up for school."

Our sister site The American Independent recently reported that civil rights groups and the U.S. Justice Department sued to stop Alabama's immigration enforcement law, "passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature in May, from being enforced, as they did in the case of S.B. 1070, the Arizona immigration law. But unlike in Arizona, a federal judge chose to allow most of the Alabama law to go into effect."

The Immigration Policy Center reported last week that Alabama school administrators "worry that Alabama's immigration law will impact the state's already cash-strapped school system."

The Policy Center added that, "according to Alabama's Department of Education, 2,285 Hispanic students (of 34,000 Hispanic students state-wide) were absent from school on Monday."

According to The American Independent, Alabama Sen. Rusty Glover, a Republican who voted for the H.B 56, "says reports of Hispanic and immigrant families taking their children out of school and leaving the state because of the new immigration law are 'really heartbreaking,' and that he believes the Legislature will do some 'tweaking' of the law in next year's legislative session."

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