

GUIDE FOR TEACHERS HELPING DREAMERS!

This guide was created for teachers and service providers in mind who teach, mentor and help our American undocumented youth (also commonly known as DREAMers). Many times you, the teacher, are the first individual a DREAMer comes out to as undocumented immigrant. This scenario is likely to continue happening as there has been a government directive called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (more on DACA below), a directive that will change the lives of DREAMers. It is likely that you might not have the tools or knowledge about the issue and/or resources available for these youth. Therefore, we hope that this document gives you a brief, easy-to-read guide on how to help DREAMers and where they can get support. The content in this guide was compiled by United We Dream from the work created by Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC), National Immigration Law Center (NILC), PEW Research Center, & USCIS.



Founded in 2006, **Educators for Fair Consideration** supports undocumented students in realizing their academic and career goals and actively contributing to society. We offer holistic programming that addresses the financial, legal, career, and emotional health needs of undocumented students. Specifically, we provide scholarships, legal services, professional and personal development workshops, and a strong peer network for undocumented students. We also lead presentations and create educational materials to raise awareness and support for undocumented students nationwide. Our programming is designed by and for undocumented young people with support from committed allies. www.e4fc.org

Founded in 1979, the **National Immigration Law Center** is the only national legal advocacy organization in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants and their families. We envision a U.S. society in which all people — regardless of their race, gender, immigration or economic status — are treated equally, fairly, and humanely, have equal access to justice, education, government resources and economic opportunities, and are able to achieve their full potential as human beings. Policymakers, community organizers, legal advocates, and the media recognize National Immigration Law Center staff as experts on a wide range of issues that affect the lives of immigrants in the U.S., and frequently call upon us to explain the real-life impact of immigration-related laws and policies. www.nilc.org



United We Dream is a network of youth-led immigrant organizations around the country. We strive to develop a sustainable, grassroots movement, led by immigrant youth, both documented and undocumented, and children of immigrants to reach equal access to higher education and a path to citizenship for immigrant youth and our families. We use leadership development, organizing, policy advocacy, alliance building, training and capacity building to pursue our mission at the local, state and national levels. www.unitedwedream.org

Own the DREAM is a national campaign to help aspiring Americans brought to this country as children take advantage of the opportunity to apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and work permits. The campaign will join the resources of United We Dream and its partners to offer assistance to a significant number of the hundreds of thousands of DREAMers eligible for this opportunity to stay in America to complete their education and contribute to the economy. www.weownthedream.org

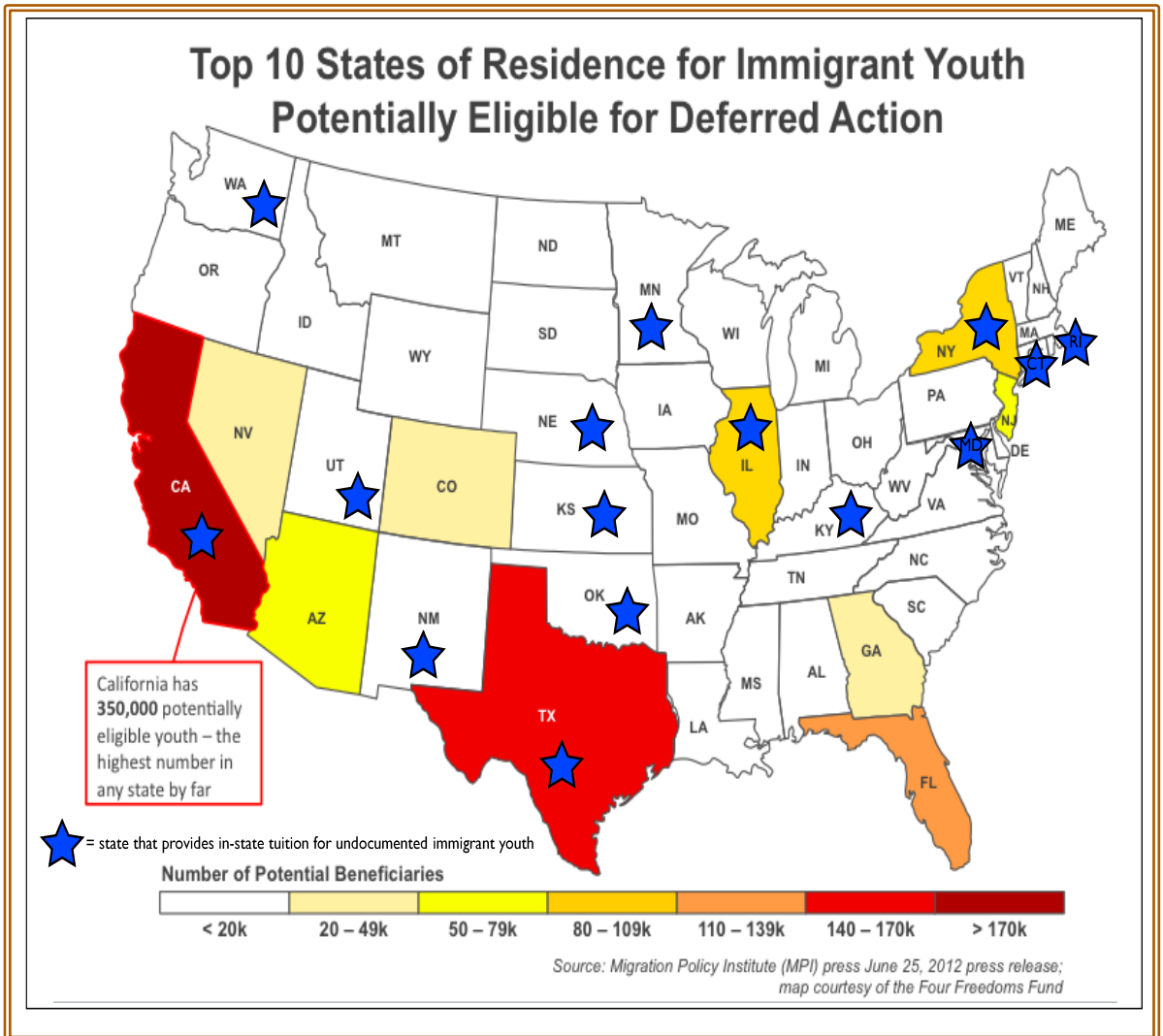


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FACTS ABOUT UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH

- Undocumented students are aspiring citizens who came to the US without legal documentation or overstayed their visas.
- 2.5 million undocumented youth live in the US.
- About 65,000-80,000 undocumented students graduate from US high schools each year. Only 5-10% of these graduates go to college. We can increase that number!
- Many students don't know they're undocumented until they begin the college process.
- Undocumented students don't qualify for state or federal grants or loans, even if their parents pay taxes.
- Undocumented students may be eligible for in-state tuition only in certain states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and Washington).



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DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

On June 15th of this year, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(DHS) would not deport certain DREAM Act–eligible undocumented youth under the directive of **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**. Under this directive from the secretary of DHS, these youth will be given temporary relief called “deferred action.” Deferred action will be valid for two years and may be renewed at the end of the two years. Individuals who receive deferred action may apply for and may obtain employment authorization.


The impact of this directive is massive for these young beneficiaries who have lived in the United States for most of their lives, have maintained good moral character, have grown up in our American schools, and consider the US their homes.

A great tool for DREAMers and families is www.weownthedream.org; it provides them with a DACA self-screening tool, referral to local pro-bono or low-cost attorneys, connection with local DREAMer organizations and DACA

CONSIDERATION of DEFERRED ACTION for CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals allows certain individuals, who meet specific guidelines, to request consideration of deferred action from USCIS. Individuals who receive deferred action will not be placed into removal proceedings or removed from the United States for a specified period of time unless terminated. If you receive deferred action, you may be eligible for employment authorization. You may request deferred action for childhood arrivals if you meet the following guidelines:


Can I be considered?




Review guidelines


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are currently in school, have graduated or obtained your certificate of completion of high school, have obtained your general educational development certification, or you are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You were present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS 	

How do I file?







Collect documents as evidence you meet the guidelines




Complete USCIS forms



Mail USCIS forms and fees




Visit your local USCIS Application Support Center for a scheduled biometrics services appointment



Check the status of your request online

www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

If you have questions about your request please call USCIS Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD)

clinics and events throughout the country. Another resource is [\(855\) DREAM-31](tel:855-DREAM-31), to get answers to DACA questions.

WHY YOU SHOULD HELP UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

- We want the best and brightest students to attend our colleges and contribute meaningfully to this country.
- These students are an important part of our nation’s future.
- Undocumented students who are college-ready have proven they can succeed.
- They are not asking to be given anything; they just want to be fairly considered.
- They affirm our belief in the value of hard work.
- They are powerful role models.
- Under federal law, all students – regardless of citizenship or residency – are entitled to a K-12 education, including college-counseling services.
- We’ve already invested in these students’ educations.
- When the DREAM Act passes, these students will have a path towards legal residency.
- With DACA, they will be granted an employment authorization, thus these youth and young adults will be able to practice their professions.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Eligibility Among Unauthorized Immigrants Ages 30 and Under <i>(in thousands)</i>	
Unauthorized Immigrants Ages 30 and Under	4,410
Potentially Eligible	
Potentially Eligible Now	
Ages 18-30 in high school or with high school diploma	700
Ages 15-17, enrolled in high school	250
Not Eligible Now, but Potentially Eligible in Future	
Ages 5-14	450
Ages 16-30, no high school diploma or GED and not enrolled in school	320
Ineligible	2,680
Under age 15, but have been in U.S. less than 5 years	280
Ages 15 and older and arrived in U.S. after age 15***	2,400

Source: PEW Research Center, August 2012

TOP 10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH

1. Tell undocumented students that they can go to college, but some options and services will not be available to them.
2. Make information and resources available to all students.
3. Be open-minded. Don't make assumptions about which students are undocumented; they aren't all Latino, Spanish-speaking or enrolled in ESL classes.
4. Identify scholarships that don't require citizenship or permanent residency. Encourage other scholarships to change their policies.
5. Identify sponsors who can support undocumented students.
6. Help students get ongoing mentoring and advice, even after the college admissions process.
7. Be knowledgeable about specific policies that affect undocumented students.
8. Support the federal DREAM Act and respective state legislation to support undocumented students.
9. Identify older students to serve as role models.
10. Refer students to qualified legal counsel to investigate possible immigration remedies. This can be a lengthy process, and not all students will have immediate remedies or a remedy.

WHAT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS MUST KNOW

- You are not alone. Thousands of undocumented students have gone to college in the US and graduated. This won't be easy, but you can do it.
- Get comfortable asking for help. Find people you can trust to help you navigate the college process.
- Not all college options and services will be available to you, but many are. Be creative. Be entrepreneurial.
- You are not eligible for federal financial aid, but there is no limit to the number of private scholarships that you can apply for.
- Community service and internships greatly increase your chance of winning scholarships.
- Currently, only 15 states offer in-state tuition for undocumented students. Each with respective requirements of years of residence, high school graduation in their state & signing of an affidavit. Visit <http://www.nilc.org/basic-facts-instate.html> for more information.
- If you have significant unmet financial need, you should consider going to a community college first and then transferring to a four-year to save money. Many bright, talented, and ambitious students choose this economical option!
- With DACA, the eligible youth will be able to practice their professions through their work permit.

HOW TO HELP DREAMERS APPLY FOR DACA

In order for a DREAMer to be eligible for DACA, he or she must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Is under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007;
4. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
5. Was physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, OR are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; AND
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

As a teacher or service provider, you can assist your DREAMer by pointing him/her to www.weownthedream.org for the self-screening DACA tool and assisting him/her with compiling the following documents to be used as proof of their DACA eligibility:

- ❑ **Official School Transcripts** - demonstrate the entirety of the student's enrollment (K-12), it is NOT required for transcript to be sealed or certified;
- ❑ **Official High School Transcript or Diploma** - Students that have graduated must obtain an Official High School Transcript that includes the date of graduation and a copy of their high school diploma. If a student has lost their diploma, they may ask what the schools policy/procedure is for having it replaced. If their transcript has their graduation date on it, they may not need their diploma; however, it is wise to attach a copy as to show a preponderance of evidence.
- ❑ **Other helpful documents** - If possible, please make copies of the student's entire enrollment records including copies of vaccine records, proof of residency on file, report cards on file, etc. This will help prove continuous presence.
- ❑ **Yearbooks**: If you have yearbooks archived in the school library, have them on hand so that when a DACA applicant requests their official transcripts, proof of enrollment and copy of their enrollment records, you can also photo copy the student's year book picture as well as any group/club pictures the student may appear in. Again, this will help show continuous presence and good moral character.

Please remind your DREAMer to contact a trusted immigration attorney or community organization if he/she needs help filling out the DACA application or if you have further questions before submitting your application. Visit www.weownthedream.org for more information