

# Helping DREAMers Achieve the College Dream

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# Why is this issue so important?

- 1 million undocumented students in the U.S. are under the age of 18. (Passel & Cohn, 2011)
- 40% of undocumented students ages 18-24 have not graduated from high school. (Passel & Cohn, 2009)
- Fewer than half of all undocumented adults ages 18-24 with a high school degree have attended any college. (Passel & Cohn, 2009)
- Between 5-10% of undocumented students will attend college immediately after high school. (Gonzales, 2007)
- 8% of all children born in the U.S. are born to at least one undocumented parent. (Passel & Cohn, 2011)

# Who is undocumented?

- Any individual currently in the United States who:
  - entered without inspection
  - entered with false documents
  - entered on a legal visa but the visa has since expired

# Who are our undocumented students?

- Students who immigrated recently with parents and all are undocumented
- Students who immigrated recently without parents
- Students who immigrated at a very early age with parents and all are undocumented

Note.....

- Students born in the U.S. to undocumented parents cause us concern as well.

# Closer look nationwide and IL

- Largest populations are in CA, TX, FL and NY (900,000-2.7 million in each state)
- Next grouping has approximately one half million – NJ, AZ, GA and IL
- The population in IL has held constant while other states such as GA, NC, NE have grown
- 94% live in metropolitan areas (nationwide)
- In Illinois, predominately in Chicago and collar counties

(Passel & Cohn, 2009)

# K-16 opportunities

- *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) grants undocumented students right to a K-12 education.
- Right does not extend to post-secondary education
- No federal law specifically prohibits undocumented students from attending a public college or university
- Private colleges have the right to admit or deny any student.
- AACRAO Member Survey in 2009 – approximately 50% of colleges responding indicated that they knowingly admit undocumented students.

# Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)

- International students are covered under the SEVIS program, which requires universities to report personal information to DHS and provide updates on enrollment.
- undocumented students cannot obtain visas as they do not reside outside the U.S. Therefore, they are not covered under SEVIS.
- For many years universities incorrectly “coded” undocumented students as international students.

# DREAM Act (Senate)

## American DREAM Act (House)

Provides undocumented students who entered the country at age 15 or younger AND entered at least 5 years before the passage of the legislation AND are not 35 years of age eligibility for legal status.

- DREAM/ADA Act would enable high school graduates to apply for conditional permanent resident status.
- Students would then have six years to complete two years of college or military service.
- Students who complete this condition, and demonstrate good moral character, could apply for permanent residency.

([www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org))



# Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- On June 15, 2012, the Obama Administration announced it would offer relief to undocumented youths, including those who are currently in deportation proceedings.
- Eligibility:
  - Arrived in the U.S. before 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - Currently 15 years old or older
  - Under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012
  - Continuously resided in the US since June 15, 2007
  - Present in the US on June 15, 2012
  - Entered without inspection or lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012
  - Currently in school or have received a high school diploma/GED
  - Criminal record clear of felony convictions, “significant misdemeanors,” or multiple misdemeanor offenses

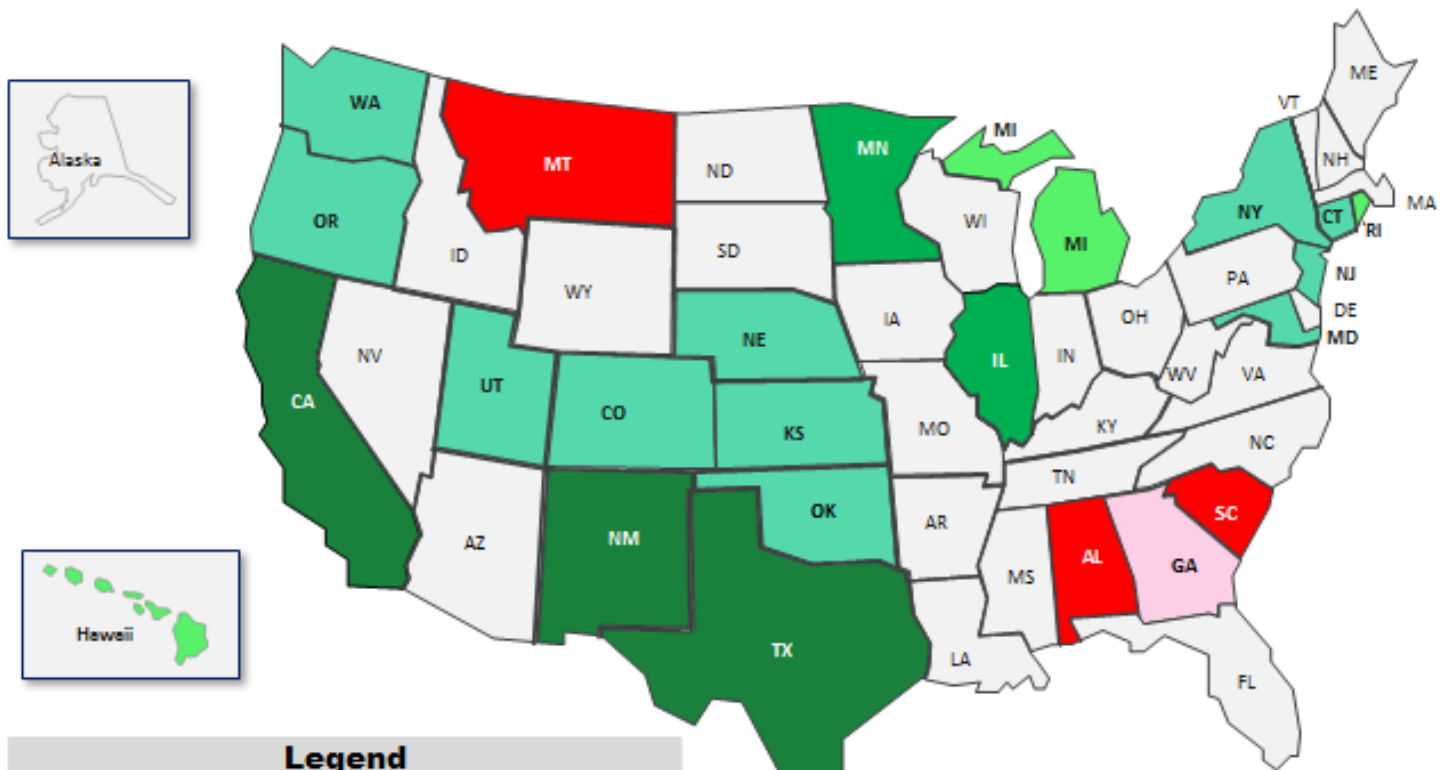
# DACA







- A form of protection from deportation that lasts for two years and can be renewed.
- Can obtain a work permit, a social security number, and a driver's license (in some states). Can also possibly travel outside the U.S., with advance parole (AFTER approval, WITH permission based on separate application)
- This executive memo is not a pathway to citizenship or a green card.
- **Does not offer students the ability to receive federal or state financial aid**

# State Measures – Restrict or Support Access

- Some states have introduced bills addressing residency requirements for in-state tuition for all students.
- A small number do not specifically permit in-state tuition for undocumented students, but have certain tuition policies that might allow them to receive it.
- A growing number prohibit undocumented immigrants from receiving in-state tuition.
- And still others, prohibit admission of undocumented immigrants at some or all public colleges or universities.
- Constant pendulum shift between restricting & supporting access

# Current State Laws & Policies on Access to Higher Education for Immigrants | December 2013



Legend	
	States with tuition equity laws
	States with tuition equity policies at major institutions
	States with tuition equity laws and scholarships
	States with tuition equity laws and state financial aid
	States that ban enrollment to undocumented students
	States where some college systems deny enrollment



# IL Public Act 93-007

- Students can pay in-state tuition at all Illinois public colleges and universities if they:
  - Graduated from an IL high school
  - Attended high school in IL for three years while living with a parent or guardian
  - Sign an affidavit stating that they will seek legal status as soon as they are eligible

# State Dream Acts

These bills, if passed, do the following:

- Create a private fund for scholarships
- Allow undocumented students to apply for state aid
- Require counselors to receive training regarding opportunities for undocumented youth
- Allow undocumented students to obtain a driver's certificate
- Provide eligibility for healthcare coverage

# Illinois Dream Act

- Signed into law on August 1, 2011
  - Created a private fund for scholarships (deadline March 1)  
[www.illinoisdreamfund.org](http://www.illinoisdreamfund.org)
  - Requires high school and college admission counselors to receive training regarding opportunities for undocumented youth
  - Permits families to participate in the state's two college tuition savings plans

# Institutional Measures

- Little guidance for private colleges
- Some admit (and occasionally fund) while others deny
- Most have no clear policy
- Stakeholder influence is significant



# Counseling Undocumented Students

- Developing a college list
- Completing applications
- Applying for financial aid and scholarships
- Selecting a major

# Completing Applications

- On-line versus paper applications
- Request for social security number
- Citizenship question
- Paying application fee and/or fee waivers
- Dilemma regarding disclosure of undocumented status

# Developing a College List

- Friendly versus unfriendly states
- Travel restrictions
- Campus climate
- Knowledgeable admission staff
- Support on campus (student activities, residence life, counseling center, career development)

# Applying for Financial Aid and Scholarships

- Biggest barrier is paying for college
- Limited availability of institutional aid
- Often eligible for merit scholarships
- Challenges in determining financial need

# Selecting a Major

- Restrictions in choosing a major (licensure, certification, background checks) – DACA will hopefully help here!
- Balancing “wants” versus what is possible
- Advising and career development support on campus

# Role of Counselors and Community Based Organizations

- Improve identification of students:
  - Smart kids with poor grades who have bad attitudes toward school. Many are bitter.
  - Students with good grades who don't engage in the college process and ultimately never apply to college.
  - Students with birth places outside of the U.S. who do not have a social security number.
  - Talk to teachers, other students, past grads.
- Necessary to get to the freshmen early

# Role of Counselors and Community Based Organizations

- Revise presentations to include the terms: *citizens, legal permanent residents and unauthorized / undocumented students*
- Present to multicultural and international student groups, ESL classes
- Educate teachers and student group advisors
- Develop opportunities for outreach to middle and junior high schools
- Develop a list of schools that have enrolled unauthorized students and make friends with the admissions and financial aid directors

# Role of Counselors and Community Based Organizations

- Inform students about tuition costs
- Discuss option of attending college part-time vs.. full-time
- Explain how payment plans work
- Develop outside scholarship opportunities
- Empower students to take charge of their search
- e4fc.org – order copies of the Undocumented Students Can Go to College poster and put them EVERYWHERE
- Affirm that an education is worthwhile



# U.S. Born Students with undocumented Parents

- These students are eligible for federal and state aid
- If parents supply a fake or stolen social security number when completing the FAFSA, it will be rejected when the number fails to match potentially rendering the student ineligible for financial aid
- Parents without a social security number should use 000-00-0000
- It is important that undocumented parents file taxes using an ITIN as many colleges will require a copy of parents' taxes (i.e. verification)
- FAFSA “smart” form isn't always smart!

# Some final thoughts

- 3 main concerns of undocumented college students are fear of deportation, loneliness and depression. (Dozier, 1993)
- Many students report frustration, helplessness, and shame, as a result of their undocumented status. (Munoz, 2008)
- Discrimination by high school & college agents often discourages students and diminishes motivation. (Munoz, 2008)
- Students who succeed in higher education often credit high school and college agents for their encouragement and guidance (Abrego & Gonzales, 2010; Perez Huber & Malagon, 2007)

# Resources

- Educators for Fair Consideration [www.e4fc.org](http://www.e4fc.org)
- IL Association for College Admission Counseling [www.iacac.org/undocumented](http://www.iacac.org/undocumented)
- Dream Activist [www.dreamactivist.org](http://www.dreamactivist.org)
- IL Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights [www.icirr.org](http://www.icirr.org)
- National Immigration Law Center [www.nilc.org](http://www.nilc.org)
- Support the DREAM Act and other related pieces of legislation by writing, emailing and calling your legislators
  - NACAC Legislative Action Center [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)
  - American School Counselor Association [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)

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