

Supporting Undocumented Youth in Their Post-Secondary Pursuits



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3 Avenues to Immigrate

A person may become eligible to immigrate by one of these three categories of criteria.

1. Family based
2. Employment based
3. Refugee based

Green cards/immigration visas are issued to persons who have become a lawful permanent resident.



Non-immigrant

When a person comes to the U.S. on a temporary basis they are considered a non-immigrant and are issued a non-immigrant visa

Examples:

1. College students
2. Exchange students
3. Business persons
4. Tourists



Undocumented Defined

A person is considered undocumented if:

- They entered the United States illegally without proper documentation, without inspection.
- They entered with a VISA but have stayed after their paperwork has expired.

Immigration in Michigan



In 2014, it was estimated that there were 130,000 undocumented immigrants in the State of Michigan.

35% came from Mexico

13% came from India

6% came from China

*Lansing State Journal, October 20, 2016

Undocumented Students



In 2012, it was estimated that undocumented immigrants accounted for 1.9% of all K-12 students in Michigan.

*Pew Research Center

Lack of Paperwork Causes Problems



- Difficult to advance in a career
- Difficult to advance in education
- Unable to get a driver's license
- Unable to get insurance
- Unable to open a bank account
- Unable to take out loans

Who are our DREAMERS?



- Undocumented children brought here at a young age...sometimes called the 1.5 generation
- They identify with the American culture.
- Most have attended their entire K-12 education here in the United States.
- They have little or no personal connection to their country of origin.

The term DREAMER stemmed from the 2009 proposed Dream Act.

What is DACA?



DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

**ENACTED ON JUNE 15, 2012 BY
EXECUTIVE ACTION BY PRESIDENT OBAMA**

What does DACA status provide?



- Defers action for removal for 2 years
- Gives a temporary Social Security Number
- Makes the individual eligible to work
- Makes the individual eligible to attend school
- Makes the individual eligible to get a driver's license

What doesn't DACA status provide?



This is not providing lawful status. The DACA student is still considered an illegal/undocumented immigrant.

This does not provide a pathway to citizenship.

Who is eligible for DACA status?



- Must have been under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
- Must have arrived prior to 16th birthday
- Must have been in the US continuously since 6/15/2007
- Must have been physically present in the US on 6/15/2012.
- Must have had no lawful status on 6/15/2012
- Must be in school, have graduated, have earned a GED or have be a honorably discharged veteran
- Must not have a felony, significant misdemeanor or 3 or more other misdemeanors, not a threat to national security or public safety.

Applying for DACA status



- File forms with USCIS
- Provide documentation
- Fee \$495
- An attorney isn't needed but could be helpful for guidance purposes

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services uscis.gov

K-12 Public Schools



- Can play an important role in helping to provide documentation for DACA paperwork
- Immigration status shouldn't be a factor to enroll a child.
- The U.S. Supreme Court case Plyler vs. Doe (1982) establishes that all children, regardless of citizenship and immigration status, have the right to equal access to a free public education in our K-12 system.
- Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) forbids discrimination based on race and country of origin and allows for access of public services.

The first step to providing support is...

A word cloud where the word 'TRUST' is the largest and most prominent element, rendered in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a black outline. Surrounding it are various other words in smaller, black, sans-serif fonts, including 'honesty', 'respect', 'belief', 'loyalty', 'relationships', 'accept', 'people', and 'relationships'. The words are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating around the central 'TRUST' word.

honesty respect
people belief
TRUST
accept relationships loyalty

Factors to consider



- Family or cultural values
- Career interests
- Financial situation
- Academic background
- School's tuition policy for undocumented students

Before you get started...



GET ORGANIZED

Post-secondary Education



- Cannot use immigration status as an admissions criteria
- Under FERPA an institution cannot release a student's immigration information unless the school has suspicions of fraud involving Federal student aid fraud or false claims of US citizenship.
- Honesty is critical. Never lie.

College Admissions



- DACA students should apply to college using their Social Security Number.
- They are not considered citizens or legal immigrants. If the correct option is not there, leave blank. If unsure, contact the admissions office.
- If a student does not have DACA status, they can still apply to college. Depending on the school's system, they may have to submit a paper application. Some systems will allow the entry of all zero's in the place of a social security number.

Tuition



Research this as each school determines their own rates for undocumented students.

- Most four year public schools now are “DACA friendly” giving in state tuition to students who have graduated from a Michigan high school. They sometimes have set number of years that the student had to reside in Michigan.
- Private schools typically have a flat tuition rate for all.
- Community Colleges vary. Some charge out of state tuition.

Financial Aid



- Students who are undocumented are not eligible to receive Federal /State financial aid.
- This means that they also can't participate in any federally funded programs.
- Most universities have a system to submit financial aid information to them. Technically you can submit the FAFSA using zeros in the social security number space. I would recommend working with the financial aid office first.

Scholarships



- Financial Aid Office
- Local scholarships
- Internet search
- Organizations

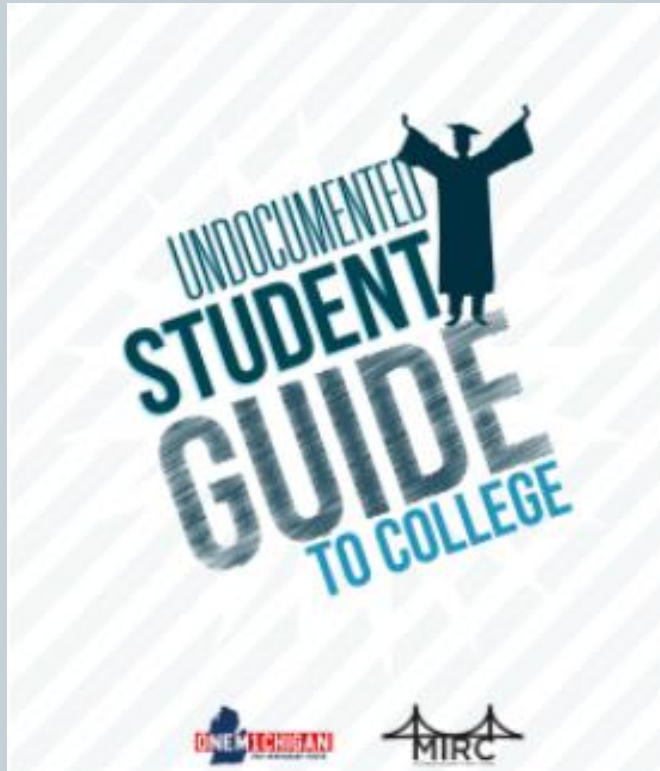


Grit



- Initially a student is going to hear more no's or "I don't knows" than affirmative answers.
- There is more information to learn than usual.
- Be persistent.
- Make connections. Keep track of who they are and how to contact them.
- Advocate for ones self.

Resources



- Michigan Immigration Rights Center

www.michigan.immigrant.org

- One Michigan for Immigrant Youth

www.1michigan.org

- Campus support offices

College Assistance Migrant Program



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

- **STUDENT'S PARENTS MUST WORK IN AGRICULTURE**
- **STUDENT MUST BE A CITIZEN OR LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT**

If you have any questions please
feel free to contact me.



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