Working with Undocumented Secondary-Level Students

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Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this webinar, participants should be able to:

• List options available to undocumented students, (FAFSA, in-state vs. out-of-state tuition) and resources to provide support
• Discuss strategies for creating a safe place for the student and their family
• Strategize ways to keep the student academically motivated
AGENDA

• Defining Undocumented Students
• The Facts
• What has been done so far
• What to tell your students
• Moving forward
• Where does your state stand
• Challenges/Barriers
• Implications
• Resources
Undocumented Students

Are aspiring citizens who came or were brought to the United States without legal documentation or who have overstayed their visas.
The Facts

11 Million
Undocumented Immigrants in the United States

2.5 Million
Undocumented Immigrant youth in the United States

The Facts

80 Thousand
Undocumented youth turn 18 each year

65 Thousand
Graduate high school each year

The Facts

5-10%
Enroll in College

1-3%
Graduate college each year

What has been done so far...
Past and Current Legislation

- The Dream ACT
- DACA
- DAPA
The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act

The Dream Act was a proposed legislation for high school students to be eligible to enter the U.S. Military or pursue higher education with the possibility of gaining legal status.
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was passed June 15, 2012. “DACAmmented” students are protected from deportation for two years. Students are eligible for a work permit, driver’s license, and social security number.
Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)

Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents protects parents from deportation for three years and they are eligible for a work permit.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2016
What To Tell Your Students

• DACA stands until January 20, 2017
• First time applicants: Wait to apply
• DACA renewal: Apply
• Advance Parole: Travel before January 20, 2017
Moving Forward

Possibilities

- Ending DACA
- Increase in deportations

Proposed bill

- The Bridge Act
WHERE DOES YOUR STATE STAND

- **States with Tuition Equity Laws & State Financial Aid**
- **States with Tuition Equity Laws & State Scholarships**
- **States where DACA grantees may be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at some colleges/universities**
- **States with tuition equity policies at some colleges/universities**
- **States that ban enrollment of undocumented students but may enroll DACA grantees**
- **States where some college systems ban undocumented student enrollment**

[Map showing different states colored according to the categories listed above.]
Challenges/Barriers
Challenges/Barriers

Political/Institutional

“Systematic, organizational, and governmental policies and practices that discriminate against and invalidate people in racial/ethnic/cultural groups through unequal allocation of resources and lack of opportunity and access”

— Broken immigration system
— Anti-immigration sentiments
— Limited state legislation

Chung et al., 2008, Diaz-Strong et al., 2011, Perez Foster, 2001
Challenges/Barriers

Educational

– Barriers related to academic achievement and preparedness
– Lack of college cultural awareness
– Financial aid barriers
– Restricted access to higher education

Chung et al., 2008, Diaz-Strong et al., 2011, Perez Foster, 2001
Challenges/Barriers

Mental Health

– Acculturative stress
– Pre and Post migration Trauma
– Mental illness (Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, Substance abuse)

Chung et al., 2008, Diaz-Strong et al., 2011, Perez Foster, 2001
Implications
Implications - Advocacy

Teachers, Administrators, Counselors

- Broaching
- Assignments/In class work
- Disseminating information home
- Noticing changes in the classroom
- Being knowledgeable of changing policies (state legislation)
- Professional Development
Creating Safe Spaces

- In the classroom and with peers
- Within the community
- Embrace cultural backgrounds
- Support groups (Dreamers Club, Minority Student Group)
School Counselors

- Parent meetings
- Incorporating information related to undocumented students financial aid and college choice workshops
- Individual counseling meetings with student and/or a family members
- Meeting with community stakeholders about opportunities
- Professional development

Implications – College Choice
Resources

- **Blog**: Mydocumentedlife.org
- **Teaching Tolerance**: http://www.tolerance.org/voting-elections
- **National Immigration Law Center**: https://www.nilc.org
- **George Mason University**: http://www.masondreamers.org/for-mason-students.html
- **College Board**: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students
- **United We Dream**: http://unitedwedream.org
- **Dream Project**: www.dreamproject-va.org
- **The Dream.US**: http://www.thedream.us/scholars/
- **The Dream is Now**: http://www.thedreamisnow.org/documentary
- **Department of Education**: http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/supporting-undocumented-youth.pdf
- **Educators For Fair Consideration**: http://www.e4fc.org/
- **ULEAD**: http://uleadnet.org/issue/map
QUESTIONS?

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Research Study

If you identify as a social justice advocate for undocumented students and you are a MIDDLE or HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR and would like to participate in my dissertation study,

Please email me for more information:

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Participation is voluntary


