

September 1, 2017

Dear Students, Parents, and Teachers,

President Donald J. Trump is considering cutting or phasing out portions of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA was established in 2012 by President Barack Obama with the goal of allowing young people to contribute to the communities they know as home without fear of being deported. I recognize that this uncertainty can create anxiety and raise many questions for undocumented students and their families. To assist, SCOE is providing the following information and resources.

DACA grants temporary protection from deportation, known as deferred action, to undocumented immigrants who came to the United States before the age of 16, have resided here since 2007, and meet other requirements such as not having violated any laws. The program has roughly 800,000 participants nationally. In California, 240,000 youths have applied for DACA, according to the Education Trust-West. A multi-state coalition has threatened a lawsuit to end the DACA program, giving the Trump administration until September 5 to rescind DACA and not renew or issue any new DACA permits in the future.

At this time, we'd like to remind families with undocumented students between the ages of 6 and 18 that their children have a right to a free public education. Schools are expected to serve all students regardless of immigration status, and school districts are not required to collect information regarding a student's immigration or legal status, aside from the statuses of nonimmigrant, international students enrolled in an educational program under an F-1 or M-1 visa. Schools are only required to collect information to satisfy certain admission requirements, such as proof of residency, none which require the provision of proof of legal immigration status or social security numbers (information from Association of California School Administrators). In addition, numerous school districts in Sonoma County have taken additional steps to ensure the safety and privacy of their undocumented families. [To see if your school district is on a list of a Safe Haven School districts, click here.](#)

Sincerely,



Steven D. Herrington, Ph.D.

Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

Documents

Fact Sheet: Undocumented Students & Families (.pdf)

[Spanish](#) | [English](#)

This fact sheet by the Association of California School Administrators provides information on the rights of undocumented students and families.

Bilingual ICE Advocacy Authorization Form

[Rep. Thompson \(.doc\)](#)

[Rep. Huffman \(.pdf\)](#)

County Superintendent Steve Herrington is partnering with congressmen Jared Huffman (District 2) and Mike Thompson (District 5) to distribute this form, which is critical to helping them assist families with immigration issues. If a student or family is having an immigration problem and wishes to seek help from their congressional representative, filling out the attached (bilingual) form is the **required** first step.

The affected party should fill it out and submit it to his or her elected representative (addresses are included on the form). Please use the congressional form appropriate for the individual. If the affected party is unsure who represents him or her, you can use this [district lookup](#), provided by the County of Sonoma.

Organizations

Information for this section is from the Education Trust-West. More information and resources are available at <https://west.edtrust.org/resource/fact-sheet-undocumented-students/>.

United We Dream (url)

A youth-led organization advocating for the fair treatment of youth and families by providing organizing resources.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (url)

Works with and educates immigrants, community organizations, and the legal sector to strengthen democracy with a lens toward diversity and human rights.

Educators for Fair Consideration (url)

Empowers undocumented youth to achieve their educational and career goals through financial support, leadership building, resources, and partnerships.

