



Center for Student Empowerment
Division of Student Affairs

4-ORGINING INTO THE FUTURE

BEST PRACTICES TO SUPPORT DREAMERS
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University of Houston System Student Affairs and Enrollment Services

2023 LEADERSHIP

CONTENT



Key Words / Definitions: Who are the Dreamers?



Legislature: What laws affect Dreamers lives?



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Career Help: How can Dreamers build a career?



Become an Advocate: How can you help?

KEY WORDS

Who are the Dreamers?



DEFINITIONS

Undocumented

Foreign-born individuals who do not possess a valid visa or immigration documentation.

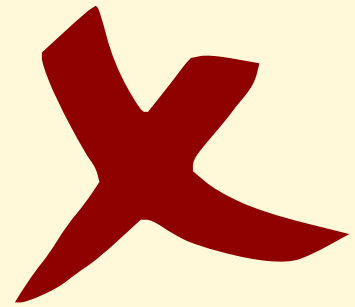
Dreamers

Individuals/students who were brought into the US at a young age. They have lived and attended school in America for a majority of their lives.

DACA Recipient

Individuals/students who benefit from Obama's 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. They are not a priority for deportation and hold a temporary work permit. They do not hold legal status.

TERMS TO AVOID



"Illegal Immigrant"

Implies criminality.



"Illegal Alien"

Othering and dehumanizing.

LEGISLATION

What laws affect Dreamers lives?



DREAM ACT

Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act

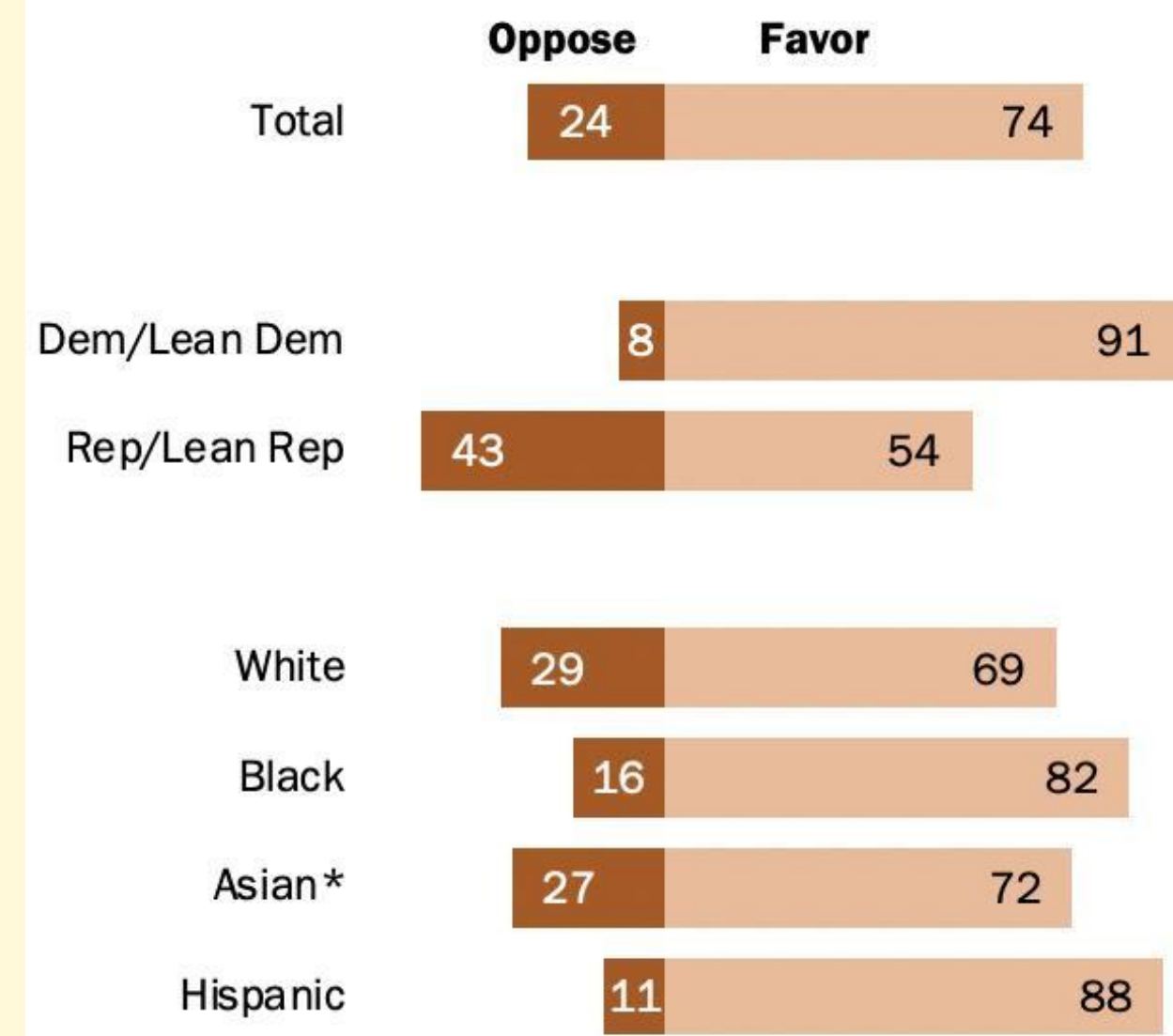
A bill in Congress that would have granted legal status to certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and attended school here.

Over 10 versions of the bill have been introduced in Congress since 2001.

Bill has not passed despite holding widespread support in American public.

Most Americans support granting legal status to immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children

% who say they ___ Congress passing a law granting permanent legal status to immigrants who came to U.S. illegally when they were children



DREAM ACT 2023 (S. 365)



What is it?

Bipartisan bill introduced in Senate February 9, 2023.

Provide Dreamers with protection from deportation and an opportunity to obtain legal status if they meet certain criteria.

Brought to the US before age 18, lived continuously in the US prior to the bill's enactment, pass a government background check, demonstrate that they were admitted into a college or university, have earned a high school diploma, or are in the process of earning a high school diploma or equivalent.



Who does it help?

12.3 million eligible Dreamers

Individuals who were granted DACA would automatically qualify for conditional residency status.

DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

June 15, 2012

Temporary relief from deportation. Temporary work permit.

Prosecutorial discretion. Not a legal status. No pathway to citizenship.

Must renew every 2 years. \$495 renewal fee.



DACA

Specific requirements:

- Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012 (that is, you were born on or after June 16, 1981);
- Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the time of filing your request for DACA;
- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of filing your request for DACA with USCIS;
- Had no lawful immigration status on June 15, 2012, and at the time of filing your request for DACA, meaning that:
- You never had a lawful immigration status on or before June 15, 2012, or
- Any lawful immigration status or parole that you obtained had expired as of June 15, 2012, and
- Any lawful status that you had after June 15, 2012, expired or otherwise terminated before you submitted your request for DACA;
- Are currently enrolled 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 United States Coast Guard or armed forces of the United States; and
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor (that is, a misdemeanor as described in 8 CFR 236.22(b)(6)), or 3 or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

DACA IN THE COURTS

September
2017

Trump administration rescinded DACA program.

June
2020

The Supreme Court ruled against the Trump administration's attempt to cancel DACA.

July
2021

Judge Hanen from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas ruled that DACA is unlawful. DACA renewals may proceed, but no first-time applicants will be processed.

October
2022

Fifth Circuit Court agreed that DACA is unlawful but renewals for existing DACA recipients will remain open.

2022 UNDOCUMENTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Changing Trends

100,000 undocumented high school graduates each year in 2022, 2023, 2024

Only 1/4 of 2022's eligible for DACA

What does this mean for your students?

- Most undocumented high school graduates now are ineligible for DACA.
- They are attending college without an SSN.
- They are in danger of deportation and can not be legally employed.



Source: FWD.US

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UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION



National

427,000



University of Houston

780



Texas

58,000



Dream Scholars

365

Source: Higherredimmigrationportal.org



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ACADEMICS

How does CSE support degree attainment?



CENTER FOR STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Encourage

- Action Plans
- Accountability
- Celebrate Accomplishments

Empower

- Ask for Help



Enlighten

- Campus Resources
- Study Skills

Embrace

- One-on-one meetings
- Staff and student advisors

THE DREAM.US SURVEY

Table 3. How confident do you currently feel about:

Confidence	Maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher?		Graduating on-time with TheDream.US scholarship?	
	n	%	n	%
Not at all confident	4	2%	13	8%
Slightly confident	16	9%	33	19%
Moderately confident	40	23%	45	26%
Very confident	114	66%	80	47%
Total	174	100%	171	100%

Confidence in their study skills, time-management, course rigor, and academic support.

Source: TheDream.US Scholars at University of Houston 2021-2022 Scholars Survey Data, Updated April 24, 2023



THE DREAM.US SURVEY

A. Undocumented Student Resource Center Availability

Table 1. Is there an Undocumented Student/Dreamer Resource Center on-campus?

Availability	n	percent
Yes	91	54%
No	5	3%
In development	3	2%
No - but we have an undocumented student program	9	5%
I don't know	62	36%
Total	170	100%

Student perceive CSE as a Dreamer support center.

Source: TheDream.US Scholars at University of Houston 2021-2022 Scholars Survey Data, Updated April 24, 2023



HOLISTIC SUPPORT MODEL



Intake Meeting

Used to assess the various factors that affect undergraduate students

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FINANCIAL AID

What financial aid options exist for Dreamers?

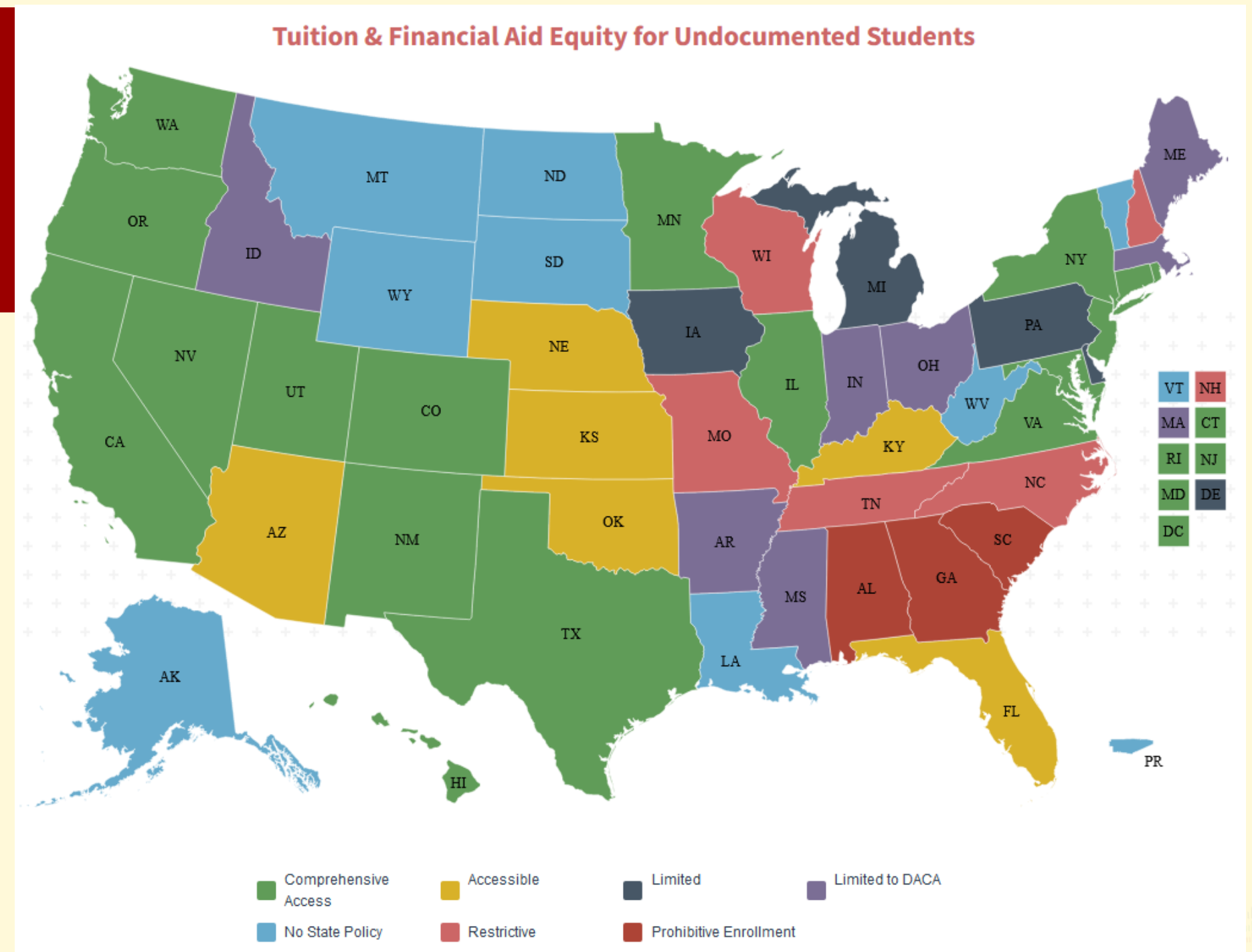


UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

There is no federal law against U.S. colleges and universities accepting undocumented students.

Higher education access is determined at the institutional and state levels, meaning each state has different laws and policies in place that determine if and how undocumented students are able to access in-state tuition, if they qualify for state financial aid, and whether they can be admitted to the state's public universities.

Source: higheredimmigrationportal.org



TEXAS DREAM ACT

Texas House Bill 1403

Provides in-state tuition for Texans without legal status.

Provides eligible undocumented students with access to state financial aid, including state grants and state higher education loans.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF _____ §

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public, on this day personally appeared

known to me, who being by me duly sworn upon his/her oath, deposed and said:

1. My name is _____.
I am _____ years of age and have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and they are all true and correct.
2. I graduated or will graduate from a Texas high school or received my GED certificate in Texas.
3. I resided in Texas for three years leading up to graduation from high school or receiving my GED certificate.
4. I have resided or will have resided in Texas for the 12 months prior the census date of the semester in which I will enroll in _____.
(name of college)
5. I have filed or will file an application to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity that I am eligible to do so.

In witness whereof, this _____ day of _____, _____

(Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Student I.D.#)

(Student Date of Birth)

SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, on the _____ day of

_____, _____, to

certify which witness my hand and official seal.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



TEXAS APPLICATION FOR STATE FINACIAL AID

Students classified as Texas residents who are not eligible to apply for federal financial aid using Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Does not require an SSN



THE DREAM US



What is it?

TheDream.US is the nation's largest college access and success program for undocumented immigrant youth.



Scholars Awarded

489



Start of Partnership

2014



Total Awards Paid to Date

\$12M

CSE DREAMER SCHOLARSHIP



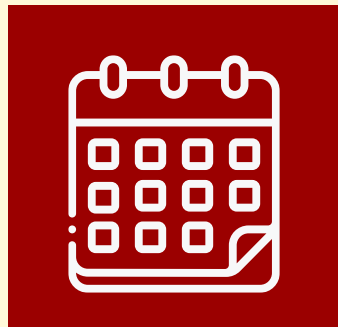
What is it?

Institutional scholarship for Dreamers funded by Private Donor.



Awards

10 students; \$500 each



Start of Partnership

2020



Total Awards Paid to Date

\$15,000

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CAREER

How can Dreamers build a career?



CAREER CHALLENGES

Undocumented Students

Immigration Reform and Control Act 1986:
Federal law requires employers to verify that employees are legally authorized to work in the United States.

Under IRCA it is illegal to knowingly employ unauthorized workers in the U.S.

DACA Recipients

Uncertain futures. May lose their SSN.

CAREER CHALLENGES



Limited work history & experience



Limited knowledge of entrepreneurship



Uncertainty of future career options



Unpaid internships

CAREER CHALLENGES

Table 1. Does your work align with your career interests?

	n	percent
I'm not sure	6	7%
No	42	50%
Yes	36	43%
Total	84	100%

Table 2. Are you currently looking for a job/career opportunity that meets your career goals?

	n	percent
No	39	24%
Yes	123	76%
Total	162	100%

Source: TheDream.US Scholars at University of Houston 2021-2022 Scholars Survey Data, Updated April 24, 2023

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

How do we help students?



- Knowledgeable staff
- Workshops
- One-on-one advising
- Build student toolbox



BUILD STUDENT TOOLBOX

Opportunities Exist

Independent Contracting

Consulting

Freelancing

Starting a Business

- No SSN required.
- Not an "employee".
- Apply with ITIN.
- File taxes with ITIN.

spark
powered by Immigrants Rising



HONORABLE MENTION

Micro-Internships

Short-term, paid, professional assignments similar to those given to new-hires or interns.

- Develop Skills
- Explore Career Paths
- Gain Experience
- Enhance Network



University Career Services

Division of Student Affairs



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

WORKSHOPS



Revamp workshops on campus

INTERNSHIPS



Expand internship opportunities

SCHOLARSHIPS



Expand scholarship opportunities

HOW TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE

Advocate


A person who publicly support or recommends a particular cause or policy.

[ImmigrationAdvocates.org](https://www.immigrationadvocates.org)



CONTACT US

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