



September 10, 2014

Dear Educator:

Many educators have expressed interest in learning about ways to better support all students who are welcomed into their classrooms -- regardless of those students' background or immigration status. I'm writing today to provide important information to educators who work with and support undocumented students.

Two years ago, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began offering the opportunity for young people to request consideration for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and obtain temporary relief from removal from the United States. To request DACA, a young person must have come to the United States before June 2007 when the young person was a child (prior to turning 16 years old) and meet additional key criteria -- including education guidelines. Students who have been granted DACA can live and go to school without fear of being deported and may be eligible to obtain work authorization. Today, over 580,800 young people have received DACA since 2012. These individuals come from all over the world, including Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Philippines, Korea, China, and India.

When the DACA program began, many educators shared information about it with students and families. Our school systems were instrumental in responding to requests from current and former students for their school enrollment information and other documentation to help students demonstrate that they fulfilled the DACA educational guidelines or to show that the student had been continuously residing in the United States since 2007 to satisfy another guideline under DACA.

Today, current and former students who requested DACA beginning in 2012 are now becoming able to request consideration for renewal of DACA. If the request for renewal of DACA is granted, a DACA recipient will be able to continue to remain in the U.S. for a specified period of time. Many additional children who could request DACA have not yet done so, including those who were too young in 2012 but who have now reached the age of 15 and are able to submit a request.

Schools are not permitted to inquire into a student's or family's immigration or citizenship status. But because many educators serve as informal and trusted advisors to students and families, in some cases educators may be uniquely positioned to share information and resources about the DACA initial request and renewal processes with those who could benefit from this information. For this reason, many educators are interested in better understanding DACA.

To learn more about DACA and the guidelines for young people who are submitting an initial or renewal request, please visit uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals (the information is also available in multiple languages [here](#)). I also encourage you to share information with school and community

leaders using the DHS [*DACA Toolkit: Resources for Community Partners*](#), which is designed to help students, families, and community advocates understand and navigate the DACA process. There is also important information about avoiding immigration scams and unauthorized practitioners of immigration law available on the DHS website at uscis.gov/avoidscams.

As you continue to support and serve all students in your school, you can also access educational resources on the U.S. Department of Education's webpage [here](#) that may be of interest to DACA students and to the educators who serve these students.

As always, thank you for all you do every day on behalf of all of your students.

Sincerely,

Arne Duncan