



Educator Toolkit for a Clean Dream Act

Background

The Dream Act has been introduced since 2000 as a way to provide citizenship to immigrants who arrived as children, have grown up here and call the U.S. their home. In December of 2010, five Senators failed the immigrant community and did not have the moral courage to vote for the Dream Act. Soon after the failed vote, undocumented youth launched the #RightToDream campaign to demand for protection from deportation for immigrant youth. After an almost two year campaign, undocumented immigrant youth won the biggest victory in 30 years for the immigrant rights movement as former President Obama announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

For the past five years, almost 800,000 immigrant youth have been protected from deportation and receive a two-year renewable work permit. Many of them have been able to live without fear, get better paying jobs, support their families and even some buying a home for their family. Yet, Trump decided to kill DACA on September 5 and gave a '6-month' period for Congress to do something. Immigrant youth are now living in a crisis of uncertainty: they can no longer apply for DACA or renew their applications, and their very livelihoods hang in the balance. More than a month has passed since the devastating announcement, and Congress has yet to act.

We call on all Members of Congress to hold the line and stand strong against any proposals for border militarization or interior enforcement and instead focus on acting on what the American people, and specifically immigrant youth and their families, are in overwhelming support for: passing a **clean** Dream Act now.

For more information about Trump's announcement on DACA, visit [here](#)

Why the Dream Act?

- The 2017 Dream Act was crafted by United We Dream leaders to be better and to cover more people than any other Dream Act in history. It reflects the dreams and wishes of immigrant youth leaders from across the country.
 - 2017 Dream Act (in brief)
 - Introduced in both House and Senate 👍
 - Bipartisan support in both chambers 👍
 - Entered the U.S. before the age of 18 👍
 - DACA recipients eligible for citizenship within 5 years 👍
 - Non-DACA recipients eligible for citizenship within 13 years 👍

Why not other bills?

- Multiple bills have been introduced to provide some protection to immigrant youth; however, we are demanding a clean Dream Act.
- In comparison, the other bills make ineligible the vast majority of our membership, or don't even provide a path to citizenship. Below are the main concerns and a more detailed version of the [comparison here](#)
 - **RAC Act**
 - **At least 10 years before being eligible** to citizenship 👎
 - Entered the U.S. before the age of 16
 - Continuous presence in the U.S. since January 2012
 - **Bridge Act**
 - **NO path to citizenship** 👎👎👎
 - entered the U.S. before the age of 16
 - continuous presence in the U.S. since June 2007
 - **Succeed Act**
 - **Sign a voluntary deportation order** subjecting to automatic removal if person does not meet requirements 👎👎👎
 - entered the U.S. before the age of 16
 - continuous presence in the U.S. since January 2012

The SUCCEED Act is the most recent bill introduced by some members of congress and one that includes a particularly concerning guideline. Our team created this easy to read graphic to show key parts of the bill and how it compares to the Dream Act. The National Immigration Law Center states that “notably, the SUCCEED Act contains provisions that undermine due process, restrict legal immigration, and penalize visa-holders.”

CURRENT IMMIGRATION BILLS EXPLAINED

DREAM (BIPARTISAN)	SUCCEED (REPUBLICAN)
SUMMARY If I am 16 now, I'll be able to become a U.S. Citizen at 29.	SUMMARY If I am 16 now, I'll be able to become a U.S. Citizen at 31.
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Shortest path to citizenship & covers the largest group of people; provides a hardship exception for those who are unable to fulfill education, employment or military requirements.	WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW Would force immigrant youth to sign a voluntary deportation order subjecting us to automatic removal if we are unable to meet requirements.
WHO IS ELIGIBLE? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arrived before the age of 18;- Arrived to the US no less than 4 years before enactment;- Good moral character	WHO IS ELIGIBLE? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arrived before the age of 16;- Arrived to the US before June 15th, 2012;- Good moral character
WHAT DOES IT REQUIRE? Must earn a high school diploma or GED or be enrolled in higher education and earn a Bachelor's or Associate/ vocational degree or, Be employed for 3 years or, Serve in the US Armed Forces for 2 years.	WHAT DOES IT REQUIRE? Must earn a high school diploma or GED or be enrolled in higher education and earn a Bachelor's or Associate/ vocational degree or, Be employed for 4 years or, Serve in the US Armed Forces for 3 years.

Find Out More at WeAreHereToStay.org

Why Clean Dream Act?

- ***When we say clean we mean no enforcement¹ deals for Dream Act.***
 - When the Trump administration terminated DACA and put lives of immigrants at risk, we who are affected refuse to sit back and take the abuse.
 - Dangerous add-ons of enforcement hurt our families - including those living in border communities.
 - We need to ditch the idea that one group of immigrants must endure more pain in order to provide another group with the freedom we all deserve.
 - an end to people bringing their extended family into the United States, and a hardening of the border against thousands of children fleeing violence in Central America, the construction of a wall across the southern border, the hiring of 10,000 immigration agents, tougher laws for those seeking asylum and denial of federal grants to “sanctuary cities,”

Listen [here](#) to the stories of DACA beneficiaries who are also teachers.

Hear DACA recipients break down how enforcement will affect their families [here](#).

[Check out this new video](#) by the UndocuBlack Network and NILC about what is meant by Clean Dream Act.

Challenge Poisonous Narratives

“DACA recipients came here through ‘no fault of their own’”

In our movement to defend the safety, lives, and dignity of immigrants we are not going to criminalize our parents, by saying that we are here through no fault of our own. Nope. Not now, not ever. Our families and the immigrant community deserve to live with dignity and respect.

“Good” immigrants are “hard-working”, “college students”


It’s common to hear these things that dominant culture define as high achievement or merit. And while these things may be true for some of us, we reject this narrative when it operates against our community who may not have access to or interest in these types of pursuits. These factors do not change anyone’s right to live their lives with safety, dignity and respect. Creating this binary only serves to support current efforts to create an [inhuman merit-based immigration system](#).

Learn more about how you can have these conversations in your classroom [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Healthy Mind


Our community is going through a lot. Here are some resources to support students and others process what's happening in a healthy manner, here are some tools. Also, visit our website weareheretostay.org.

a tip from our UndocuHealth initiative



Acupressure Points for Anxiety, Depression and Stress:

- 1.** Find a quiet space and sit comfortably on a chair or in lotus position on the floor.
- 2.** Close your eyes, and practice Mindful Breathing.
- 3.** Once you feel relaxed and at peace press down on the two points just below your shoulder sockets. Make sure to lightly apply pressure with love and compassion for 5 to 10 minutes.
- 4.** As you press, focus on your breath and slowly release any tension, anxiety and negative energy.
- 5.** Slowly, very slowly, open your eyes. Then, take a moment to be thankful, say the following outloud and fill in the blank:
'Today, I am grateful for _____.'



(Lotus position)

Stay tuned for our UndocuHealth Facebook Live!

Content Developed by Josue De Luna Navarro

A tip from the UndocuHealth Initiative:

RELAX THE TENSION STRESS REDUCING RICE SOCK

MATERIALS:

1. Large thick cotton sock.
2. A bag of rice.

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
				
Place rice into sock until sock is about 3/4 of the way full.	Tie a knot at the top of the sock.	Heat the rice sock in microwave for 20 sec or until sock reaches the desired heat level.	Place hot rice sock on a towel and apply to the neck & shoulders.	Close your eyes and practice mindful breathing for 5 - 10 minutes.

www.WeAreHereToStay.org

Content developed by Josue De Luna Navarro



ACTION TOOLKIT FOR SCHOOLS

Here's what you can do right now

1) Become aware of the experience of undocumented people

- Seek out local organizations led by the people most affected. [Find here](#) a UWDN chapter near you
- Have a list of trusted people you can contact with questions
- Understand the policies, laws, and bills like Dream Act that can affect undocumented people

2) Create a [welcoming environment](#) and resources for students and families

- Be mindful of who is not engaging in conversations around immigration
- Stand up for students that won't speak up and are feeling unsafe, unable to speak
- Create opportunities to provide encouragement
- Provide resources in different languages and have interpreters at workshops
- Know where to go for trusted legal help
 - Find trusted local immigration legal resources at adminrelief.org/legalhelp/

3) Provide opportunities to connect to community members who can share immigrant experience.

- Invite speakers from the community who can share their stories, facilitate discussion, and make a call to take action
- Include in your [curriculum](#) videos of stories from people who immigrate to the United States

4) Encourage students to analyze the conversations around immigration and know how to discern between opinion and fact

- Provide opportunities to learn the history of immigration
- Provide opportunities to talk about the role that racism and racial prejudice have on the immigration laws
- Hold classroom exercises such as a [privilege walk](#)

5) Provide spaces to discuss empowerment and what can be done to create change

- Share the impact of history of social justice movements, including the immigrant youth movement
 - [New Mexico Students Walk Out after DACA Termination](#)
- Invite students to write journals about their experience and what change they'd like to make
- Invite student to create and / or join community projects

Visit [these](#) tools and ideas about how to implement these steps.

The more you know

- Presidents of George Mason University, Georgetown University, Montgomery College and Northern Virginia Community College call upon Congress to pass the bipartisan Dream Act. ow.ly/kmu430fUvr6 (Oct .2017)
- 774 colleges and universities to Congress calling for a permanent fix for DACA. www.acenet.edu/dreamers. A copy of the letter: <http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Letter-to-Congress-on-DACA-Oct-2017.pdf>. (Oct .2017)
- [Letter from 64 Higher Education Advocacy Organizations](#) calls on Congress to Pass the Dream Act. (Sept .2017)

Keep in mind

- We organize with pride because we know that what we stand for is right, it is grounded in love, and because our strategy reflects the will of our immigrant youth members and leaders.
- United We Dream communicates people-first because it is our stories that give us life and which have been proven to change hearts and minds.

[For Community Members: Take action for Dream Act](#)

Join us by texting **EQUITY** to 877877

[Join our emailing list](#)

What did you think of the toolkit?

Add your [comments here](#)