



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TOM TORLAKSON, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
LUPITA CORTEZ ALCALÁ, Executive Director

December 20, 2016

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and High School Principals:

THE CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT APPLICATION

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) understand that, in light of recent events, there could be confusion regarding the California Dream Act program, which allows certain undocumented and out-of-state students (“Dreamers”) to receive state financial aid while attending colleges in California. The California Dream Act is a state law, separate and distinct from the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Regardless of what happens at the federal level, state financial aid for Dreamers remains legal in California. A Dreamer student does not need to be DACA-certified to be eligible for a public education or state financial aid. Losing DACA status will not affect most state financial aid.

We encourage you to communicate with your students and their families that the information provided via the California Dream Act Application is used solely to determine eligibility for state financial aid and isn’t shared with the federal government or used for immigration enforcement purposes. CSAC will protect this information to the fullest extent of the law.

We hope that families will conclude, as we have at CSAC, CDE, and public colleges and universities, that the opportunity represented by a college education in California is a pathway to success for Dreamers. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting students and families. CSAC and CDE are proud to stand with Governor Brown, leaders of the State Legislature, multiple local governments, and our state’s public and private colleges and universities in upholding the rights of California’s Dreamer students.

Should you have any questions, please contact the California Student Aid Commission by phone at 916-464-8271 or the California Department of Education, College Preparation and Postsecondary Programs Office, Career and College Transition Division by phone at 916-323-6398.

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More information on the California Dream Act, including Frequently Asked Questions for High School Counselors, is available on the California Dream Act Web page at http://www.csac.ca.gov/dream_act.asp.

The California Dream Act application is available on the CSAC California Dream Act Web page at <http://www.caldreamact.org/>.

For more information on DACA, please see the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DACA Web page at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education



Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

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