

To Be, We DREAM

DREAM Act Fact Sheet

All the children in the country should be children of the country.
- Bob Moses

Building a Movement of Immigrant Students

Stand with immigrant children and young people to gain access to higher education for all.

Make your voice heard:

1. Call your Senators and Representatives at 202-224-3121, President Obama at 202-456-1111. Visit www.congress.org to find your Congress Member.
2. Organize your school to hold workshops and actions.
3. Contact NAKASEC to join listservs and get active.

To get involved or for more information:

National Korean
American Service and
Education Consortium

Los Angeles National Office
323-937-3703
Washington D.C Office
202-339-9318
www.nakasec.org

Korean Resource Center
323-937-3718
www.krcla.org

Korean American Resource
and Cultural Center
773-588-9158
www.chicagokrcc.org

Each year, 65,000 undocumented immigrant students graduate from U.S. high schools, uncertain whether they will have an opportunity to achieve their dreams. Raised in the U.S., these students are denied a chance to build a future in America, the country they call home. They also face many hardships including:

1. Difficulties pursuing higher education because they are denied financial aid, scholarships, and in-state tuition rates in most states.
2. Those that have the resources to graduate from an institution of higher education are unable to work in the field of their study or choice.
3. They live daily with the fear of being deported.

There are 1.7 million undocumented immigrants under the age of 18 nationally. 1 in 7 Korean Americans are undocumented, including a significant percentage under 18 years of age.

DREAM Act

On March 26, 2009, the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) was introduced as S. 729 and H.R. 1751. If passed, this national law will allow eligible undocumented immigrant students to legalize their immigration status and reach their fullest potential.

Qualifying students are eligible for conditional status which allows them to stay in the country for 6 years. During this time, the student must graduate from a 2-year college, complete 2 years towards a 4-year degree, or serve in the U.S. armed forces for two years. Students who meet these requirements will be granted legal permanent residency status.

To qualify for the DREAM Act, a student must:

1. Have been living in the U.S. more than 5 years prior to the bill's enactment.
2. Be 15 years old or younger at the time they came to the U.S.
3. Graduate from a U.S. high school or obtain a GED.

In State Tuition

In most states, undocumented immigrant students must pay out-of-state tuition even if they meet the residency requirements for in-state tuition rates. Because out-of-state tuition can cost several times more and undocumented immigrant students are ineligible for scholarships or any form of financial aid, it is difficult for most to attend college.

As of January 2010, ten states (California, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin) have passed laws providing in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students. Many other states are considering similar laws.

Currently, students are eligible for in-state tuition if they:

1. Have attended a school in the state for a certain number of years.
2. Graduated from a high school in the state.
3. Signed an affidavit stating that they will legalize as soon as they are eligible.