



Spring Branch Independent School District

## DACA Resource Guide

for Communities & Campuses

Version: 9/19/17 - 5:00PM

September 19, 2017

### *“Every Child means every child”*

This resource was created in response to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) presidential order that was rescinded on September 5, 2017. Since the same-day stop to the program was imposed many local, state, and national organizations have provided support and resources for persons affected by DACA and other citizenship statuses previous to this announcement. This document provides a one-stop shop for leaders in our system to access information, and respond to the needs of our students and their families as we meet the needs of Every Child in our system.

#### General Overview of DACA :

Read more about DACA and the current standing of DACA individuals. Learn the differences between DACA students and undocumented students.

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#### Senate Bill 4:

Learn about Senate Bill 4 and its implications for our schools. Find out the current status of this bill.

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#### Campus Supports for Students, Families, and Staff:

- Access DACA resources for families (pg. 5)
- See a list of upcoming DACA community events (pg.5)
- Learn about developing a family safety plan (pg. 5)
- See a list of support services for counselors and their schools (pg. 6)

**This is a dynamic document and is regularly being updated. The following organizations have supported the content:**

ONE Houston | United We Dream | The ACLU of Texas | BakerRipley  
Leadership for Educational Equity | Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

# General Overview of DACA

*Understanding the Diverse and Dynamic Needs of our Children, Colleagues, and Community.*

## What is DACA?

On June 15, 2012, President Obama created a new policy calling for deferred action for certain undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children. Applications under the program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”), began on August 15, 2012.

Deferred action is a discretionary, limited immigration benefit by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It grants individuals “lawful presence”, (NOT lawful status). It can be granted to individuals who are in removal proceedings, who have final orders of removal, or who have never been in removal proceedings. Individuals who have deferred action status can apply for employment authorization and are in the U.S. under color of law. However, there is no direct path from deferred action to lawful permanent residence or to citizenship, and it can be revoked at any time. Watch a 2 minute explanation [here](#).

## What is the difference between a student who is Undocumented vs. DACA students?

### Undocumented students:

- Are aspiring citizens who came to the United States without legal documentation or who have overstayed their visas.
- May or may not know they are undocumented until they begin the college process.
- Don’t qualify for federal grants or loans even if they are in financial need and their parents pay taxes.

### DACA Students:

- Are permitted “lawful presence” (NOT lawful status) for two years from date of grant. This means an individual who is “DACAdmented” is protected from deportation for two years.
- Had to have arrived in the U.S. before age 16, be under the age of 31, and lived in the U.S. continuously since June 15, 2007 to be eligible for DACA. [\(Source\)](#)
- Must currently be attending school, have a high school degree (or GED certificate), not have been convicted of a felony or certain misdemeanors, and must be at least 15 years or older (unless they are in immigration court) to qualify for DACA.
- Can obtain a social security number and, in most states, can obtain a valid driver’s license or state ID.
- Are authorized for employment, are able to attend University (in some states), or may join the military for the two years DACA is awarded.

### One-Click Resources:

#### Information Resources:

- To read President Trump’s official statement on DACA and what to expect, click [here](#).
- FAQs about DACA, click [here](#).
- To learn more about the impact that the rescinding of DACA is having on DACA individuals, click [here](#).
- To review DACA updates for Educators, [click here](#).

# General Overview of DACA:

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## Where do DACA individuals currently stand?

- Since the DACA program was terminated on September 5, 2017, no new DACA applications will be accepted.
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will no longer process first-time applications after September 5, 2017.
- Current DACA individuals and those with work permits (Employment Authorization Documents) will remain valid until its expiration date.
- DACA issuances and work permits expiring between now and March 5, 2018 MUST re-apply by October 5th, 2017.
- Advance Parole to travel abroad is no longer available, which means DACAmented individuals are urged not to travel outside of the country for any reason. This is relevant for any student with study-abroad or summer travel opportunities.
- DHS will no longer grant DACA recipients permission to travel abroad through Advance Parole. Any pending applications for advance parole will not be processed and DHS will refund any associated fees. ([Source](#))

## Is there any pending legislation that could extend the protections under DACA?

For the past 16 years, Congress has made unsuccessful attempts to pass different iterations of the DREAM Act. President Trump's message on his decision to rescind DACA is that it will "provid[e] a window of opportunity for Congress to finally act."

## What happens to our students if Congress takes no action?

Without congressional action, the benefits of DACA will completely phase out by March 2020. However, President Trump signaled an intention to "revisit" the DACA issue if Congress takes no action between September 2017 and March 2018 to legalize DACA.

## One-Click Resources:

- Read the top 5 things to know about Trump's decision to end DACA by clicking [here](#).
- To see a list of FAQs on DACA Termination, [click here](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions

# General Overview of Senate Bill 4:

*Understanding the Diverse and Dynamic Needs of our Children, Colleagues, and Community.*

## The 14th Amendment:

Public schools in Texas are required by law to serve all children, including undocumented ones, as guaranteed by the Plyler v. Doe Supreme court decision in 1982. The decision was as follows: “Texas statute which withholds from local school districts any state funds for the education of children who were not “legally admitted” into the United States, and which authorizes local school districts to deny enrollment to such children, violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.”

This court decision ensured that all students are protected and are guaranteed education. The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division along with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights and Office of the General Counsel also released a letter in 2014 that stated, “Under Federal law, State and local educational agencies (hereinafter “districts”) are required to provide all children with equal access to public education at the elementary and secondary level.”

## What is Senate Bill 4?

SB4 is a Texas law that forces local governments and law enforcement agencies to do the work of federal immigration officers. It punishes local officials who choose to prioritize their communities’ safety over the anti-immigrant agenda of politicians, diverts precious local resources away from communities to serve the needs of the federal government, corrodes public trust in law enforcement, and drives victims and witnesses of crime into the shadows, making everyone less safe. Sheriffs and police chiefs across the state strongly advised the legislature not to pass this awful law. Governor Abbott signed SB4 on May 7, 2017. ([Source](#))

## What is the status of SB4?

Cities and counties across the state challenged SB4 in federal court arguing that it was unconstitutional. On August 30, the court issued an order temporarily blocking the majority of SB4 from going into effect. The State of Texas has filed an appeal of the court’s decision. ([Source](#))

### One-Click Resources:

- To understand the impact that SB 4 can have on our schools, click [here](#).
- To learn about the federal guidance regarding ICE’s presence in schools, click [here](#).
- To learn more about Senate Bill 4 and supporting students, click [here](#).

### Ways to Support Our DACA Students

- Help provide a bully-free school environment.
- Make information and resources available.
- Be knowledgeable about specific policies that affect students at a national, statewide, and local level.

# Student & Family Resources

*Meeting the Diverse and Dynamic Needs of our Children, Colleagues, and Community.*

## How will we support our DACA students?

### *Campus Recommendations:*

- To bring a knowledge building workshop about DACA to your staff, click [here](#).
- To host a campus DACA Renewal workshop with a partner organization for your students and families, click [here](#).
- Ensure DACA information and workshop opportunities are available to your parents in the front office. Use the DACA Resources for Families below.
- Encourage staff to ensure their classroom is a safe space by using the links below.

## DACA Resources for Families

- For a list of free or low-cost legal help, [click here](#).
- Click here to access a flyer of DACA Renewal Workshops held by Catholic Charities flyer.

## DACA Community Events

- For a calendar of upcoming DACA renewal clinics, [click here](#).
- For a list of upcoming immigration chats and DACA renewal clinics, [click here](#).
- Flyer of organization that can help with DACA renewals, click [here](#).

## Family Safety Plan

- To access a Family Preparedness Plan, [click here](#).
- Make A Plan: Migrant Parents' Guide to Preventing Family Separation. [Click here](#) to access.
- ICE's Parental Interests Directive: Helping Families Caught Between the Immigration and Child Welfare Systems. [Click here](#) to read more.
- For additional information for students/families who have had a member detained or deported, please contact Natalia Fernandez or another member of the System of Care team.

## One-Click Resources:

### ***Classroom Resources:***

- For texts about the refugee and immigrant experience, [here](#).
- For books and reading materials to promote inclusiveness and talk about DACA, click [here](#).

### ***Family & Student Resources:***

- "Renew your DACA" flyer (Spanish and English), click [here](#).
- "How to respond to ICE flyer" (Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Arabic, and English), click [here](#).

## Tips for Supporting your DACA Students and Families:

Create a safe space in your community. Leverage a staff member or central office individual that can support the students & families.

Open your campus to a partner organization so that they may host a DACA Renewal workshop for your students and staff members. To solicit this support, click [here](#).

Make resources from this renewal flyers and safety plan resources visible and available for students and parents to pick-up in a discrete manner.

# Campus Resources and Supports

*Meeting the Diverse and Dynamic Needs of our Children, Colleagues, and Community.*

## Creating Inclusive Classrooms

Creating a safe and inclusive classroom for all students is the foundation to ensuring that Every Child maintains a positive connection to school. The resources below have been vetted to ensure a politically neutral message. We encourage all teachers to ensure that your environment is safe and inclusive of all students. For lesson plans and activity ideas on promoting inclusiveness, click [here](#).



## Counselor Support: DACA Students & T-2-4

As you know, supporting students in the upcoming months will be tumultuous as the impact of the rescinding of DACA reveals itself. Accessing financial supports and services for our students is key to ensure all of their T24 opportunities are open to them. To access resources regarding scholarships for DACA students, click [here](#). Additional Financial Aid supports, regardless of “status”, click [here](#).

To attend a workshop to help build your knowledge around DACA and supporting DACA students to T24 click [here](#).



## Building Peer-to-Peer Empathy

The following resource is applicable for students age 12 and up. The accompanying lesson plans include activities that can be done in a large or small group setting. The documentary is 17 minutes long and is politically neutral. To access the documentary and lesson plans, click [here](#).

## One-Click Resources:

### *Classroom Resources:*

Access the 30 minute “The Dream is Now Documentary” and Facilitator Guide [here](#) which contains lesson plans and activities.

## Frequently Asked Questions (Cont’d)