

# Supporting and Guiding DACA/ Undocumented Students



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN “UNDOCUMENTED” STUDENT?

- ▶ Has typically lived in the US since childhood, but was not born here
- ▶ Brought to the US by their parents at a young age; may not even be aware of their lack of citizenship status
- ▶ Learned English and think of themselves as American
- ▶ Face incredible economic, legal, social/emotional and educational barriers
- ▶ Protected by Plyer v. Doe, 1982; the US Supreme Court ruled that no child should be denied a K-12 public education based on their immigration status

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A “DACA STUDENT”

- ▶ Obama’s “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” in 2012
- ▶ Receive “work-only Social Security numbers”
- ▶ DACA gives undocumented youth: protection from deportation/a work permit
- ▶ No new first-time DACA applications accepted after October 6, 2017
- ▶ DACA renewal process is time consuming, expensive and requires a lawyer
  
- ▶ Who qualified for DACA?
  - ▶ <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/faqdeferredactionyouth/>

# LOGISTICS

- ▶ You legally cannot ask a student their citizenship status or their parents
- ▶ Only students who have regular Social Security cards are eligible for TN Promise and other federal aid; identify students before initiating TN Promise
- ▶ Social Security cards that says “For Work Purposes Only” are NOT eligible for federal aid

\*This does not prohibit them from attending college or receiving academic/outside scholarships\*



# CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ Build a trusting relationship; take time to understand the student's family dynamic without judgement or criticism
- ▶ Focus on the family – address parents as equally as the student, even if they do not speak English
- ▶ Meet the student where they are currently- learn and understand their culture
- ▶ Students are often the interpreters for the parents
- ▶ Get in touch with the ELL (English Language Learner) or Spanish teacher to help with translating

# FEARS

- ▶ Undocumented parents are VERY hesitant to fill out information that goes to the federal government
- ▶ More commonly, the student will be a citizen while the parent(s) are undocumented
- ▶ \*Make them feel comfortable about the FAFSA process\*
- ▶ Don't assume that undocumented parents will not file taxes
- ▶ Many undocumented parents file their taxes using an I-TIN number ; this is important to know when FAFSA season comes around



# ADVISING

- ▶ DACA/Undocumented students are required to pay out-of-state tuition in Tennessee public universities
- ▶ In Tennessee, there are also laws against granting these students access to certain licensures
- ▶ Careers in medicine, law, social work, cosmetology, and education may have laws in place limiting or banning these students from receiving professional licenses
- ▶ These laws and regulations vary between industries and states; encourage students to research
- ▶ Here is a list of popular colleges that provide assistance and additional scholarship opportunities to high achieving DACA/Undocumented students:
  - ▶ Trevecca Nazarene
  - ▶ Cumberland University
  - ▶ Christian Brothers
  - ▶ Berea
  - ▶ Lipscomb
  - ▶ Carson-Newman
  - ▶ Maryville College
  - ▶ TCAT!

# CREATE A WELCOMING OFFICE SPACE

**BE AN  
ADVOCATE**



**I AM AN UNAFRAID  
ALLY!**

**WHO WORKS WITH  
AND SUPPORTS  
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS  
AND FAMILIES.**

#EDUCATORSOUT #UwdDEEP



# STATISTICS & FACTS

- ▶ Undocumented immigrants pay approximately 11.6 billion in federal and state taxes annually, paying a higher portion of their income into the system than the top 1% (cbsnews.com, 2016)
- ▶ Undocumented youth 18-24: 40% have less than a high school education compared to only 8% for U.S.-born students (US Dept. of Education, 2015)
- ▶ About 5 to 10% of undocumented students pursue higher education, and far fewer successfully graduate with a degree (US Dept. of Education, 2015)
- ▶ An estimated 98,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools each year, but those graduates remain "at risk of deportation and will face severely limited opportunities to pursue further work and education," (blogs.edweek.org, 2019)

# FAFSA & SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ A documented student with undocumented parents- the student WILL qualify for Financial Aid
- ▶ Eligible non-citizens: student has a Permanent Resident card (Green Card), is a Conditional Permanent Resident, Refugee, Asylum Granted, Indefinite/Humanitarian Parole, Cuban-Haitian Entrant
- ▶ Parent(s) who are undocumented must enter 000-00-0000 as their SSN  
\*EVEN IF THE PARENT HAS AN I-TIN NUMBER\*
- ▶ Parent must print a signature page instead of creating an FSA-ID to sign the student's FAFSA
- ▶ This link provides information that is necessary for these students to complete a FAFSA:  
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

# SCHOLARSHIP DATABASES

- ▶ Equal Chance for Education Scholarship
  - ▶ <https://www.equalchanceforeducation.com/how-to-apply>
- ▶ MALDEF
  - ▶ <http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html>
- ▶ National Immigration Law Center
  - ▶ <https://www.nilc.org/issues/education/estimates-of-eligible-students/aid-scholarships-groups/>
- ▶ The Dream.US
  - ▶ <http://www.thedream.us/scholarships/>
- ▶ My Documented Life
  - ▶ <https://mydocumentedlife.org/2016/09/12/scholarships-open-to-undocumented-students/>

# MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ DACA/Undocumented students and families will be reluctant to trust/share
- ▶ Never ask a student their citizenship status (or their parents)
- ▶ DACA/Undocumented students can attend post-secondary, but will encounter barriers with scholarships and out-of-state tuition costs (private is best)
- ▶ Create a trusting, supportive environment and be an advocate
- ▶ Encourage research for specific majors/careers