Undocumented Students in California: What You Should Know

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- **1 in 13** Californians is undocumented.
- **750,000** K-12 students in California have undocumented parents.
- **240,000** young people in California have applied for DACA.
- **250,000** undocumented children 3-17 are enrolled in California schools.

**COMMON TERMS**

- **UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**: people who enter the United States without immigration clearance.
- **MIXED STATUS FAMILIES**: families with at least one undocumented family member and at least one member who is a U.S. citizen. Over one-third of U.S. households with an undocumented person are mixed families.

**POLICIES AFFECTING IMMIGRANT STUDENTS**

**FEDERAL**

- **PLYLER V. DOE**: a Supreme Court decision that guarantees undocumented students free access to K-12 education.

**CALIFORNIA**

- **DACA**: an initiative created by President Obama in 2012 through executive action provides two-year deportation relief and work eligibility for qualifying youth who came to the U.S. as children.

- **DREAM ACT**: a U.S. legislative proposal that would provide a path to legal status for qualifying high school graduates who attend college or serve in the military. First introduced in 2001, it never passed despite multiple legislative attempts.

- **AB 540 (2001)** allows qualifying nonresident students to pay in-state tuition at public universities. California was the first state to pass such legislation.

- **The CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT (2011)** allows AB 540 students to also apply for state-funded financial aid, known as Cal Grants, and non-state funded scholarships.
For additional information, including links to resources and organizations supporting undocumented students and their families, check out www.edtrustwest.org.

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