



THE CITYWIDE COUNCIL ON HIGH SCHOOLS
THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Citywide Council for High Schools (CCHS) Resolution 2017-R4
Resolution in Support of DACA/Dream Act

Whereas, the CCHS, established by NYS Education Law 2590-B, 6. (a) (i) – (v) (the Law) with the power to advise and consent on any educational or instructional policy involving high schools; and making recommendations, as appropriate, on how to improve the efficiency and delivery of such services; and

Whereas, the NYCDOE 2015-16 School Year English Language Learner Demographics Report (the Report) states that 138,207 students in the NYC school system have been identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) which account for 14.36% of the entire NYCDOE population of 962,610 students (excluding charter schools); and

Whereas, according to the Report, 33.39% of ELLs were born outside the United States of America, representing a significant proportion of the total NYC ELL Student population; and

Whereas, there is no hard data on the number of undocumented students in NYC schools, it is logical to expect that many ELLs who are foreign born or new immigrants will be undocumented and that they were brought to this country by their parents at an age where they were unaware of their status; and

Whereas, the U.S. Congress has not passed federal DREAM Act legislation that would grant some undocumented students, who came to the United States at a young age, a path to education and citizenship if they meet certain criteria; and

Whereas, California, Texas and New Mexico have already passed their versions of the DREAM Act, without the citizenship provision, which can only be accomplished by a federal law; and

Whereas, in January 2012 the State University of New York (SUNY) Trustees unanimously approved a resolution supporting a plan to offer state sponsored tuition assistance, grants and scholarships to college-bound illegal immigrants who want to enroll in state schools, with H. Carl McCall, Chairman of the Board of Trustees stating: “the current demographic realities of NYS indicate that many of the brightest and hardest working students eligible to enroll at SUNY are of undocumented status, and it is imperative that SUNY remain accessible to these students”; and

Whereas, the New York State Legislature has not passed the NY State DREAM Act that would extend financial benefits to undocumented students, despite support by the NY State Department of Education, the City University of New York, New York University, NY State Board of Regents, the NYC Council, former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg and current NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio; and

Whereas, failure to pass DREAM Act legislation will curtail the pursuit of education and career fulfillment of many bright and talented students whose barriers to achieving their dreams are lack of resources and undocumented status; and

Whereas, on June 15, 2012, President Obama issued an Executive Order - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) - allowing undocumented residents under the age of 31, who came to the United States before the age of 16 and have no criminal or security threat, and who have been successful students or have served in the military, to get a two-year deferral of deportation; and

Whereas, on September 5, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated a phase out of DACA benefits, which are provided on a two year basis, to be continued on a limited, six month window during which it will consider certain requests under specific parameters; and

Whereas, individuals who currently have DACA will be allowed to retain benefits and work authorizations until they expire in six months; and

Whereas, these individuals, who have established productive lives and are an integral part of the fabric of the United States, will again be thrust into the fearful status of not knowing if they will suddenly be deported to a country that most have no connection with; and

Whereas, phasing out of DACA will stop the pursuit of education and career fulfillment of many bright and talented students whose barriers to achieving their dreams are lack of resources and undocumented status; and

Whereas, proposed federal legislation (Senate Bill S1625 and House Bill HR3440) would automatically grant conditional permanent resident status to DACA recipients who still meet the requirements needed to obtain DACA; and

Whereas, the CCHS advocates for equal access to higher education for all students, whether or not they are undocumented; and now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the CCHS fully supports Federal and New York State DREAM Act legislation that will ensure equal access to higher education for all students, regardless of immigration status, provide financial resources from both the public and the private sectors, and make available tax-free education accounts for undocumented students to help their families plan for college; and be it further

Resolved, that the CCHS fully supports Federal and NY State DREAM Act legislation so that the great untapped potential of undocumented youth will have the opportunity to make valuable economic and social contributions to United States and NY State; and be it further

Resolved, that the CCHS fully supports federal legislation (Senate Bill S1625 and House Bill HR3440) that would automatically grant conditional permanent resident status to DACA recipients who still meet the requirements needed to obtain DACA;

Adopted by the Citywide Council on High Schools on **11/8/2017**