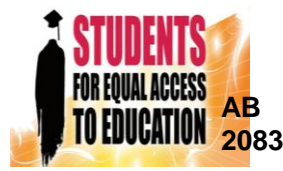


Fact Sheet



The California Dream Act (SB 1301) and the Student Financial Aid Eligibility Act (AB 2083) are state legislative proposals that allows U.S. citizen and undocumented “AB 540” students to apply for financial aid at California public colleges and universities *without* the use of the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA).

Background

The United States Census Bureau estimated that in the year 2000, approximately 2.5 million undocumented youth under the age of eighteen were living in the United States. [Furthermore, approximately 65,000 undocumented students would graduate from U.S. high schools each year. Of this number, roughly 40 percent, or 26,000 undocumented youth reside in the state of California (Pew Hispanic Center).] Many undocumented students are honor students, athletes, student leaders, and aspiring professionals, but because of their immigration status they are unable to access higher education.

Statistics

California’s population exceeds 37,172,015 of which:

- 39.7% of CA workforce growth are foreign born Latinos (3 Million)¹
- <1% (13,000) CA college students are undocumented²
- 45-52% Latino/40-44% Asian constitute undocumented at CA UCs³

Demographically, California is⁴:

44.4% white	34.9% Hispanic
11.9% Asian	6.4% Black
0.4 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3% Alaskan Native

What is the Problem?

Currently, California high school graduates that are AB540 eligible and have been accepted to our public colleges and universities are unable to access higher education. These students confront a difficult challenge of financing their college education because they are unable to apply for any federal, state, or institutional financial aid yet must pay into these funds.

1. California Demographic Futures – Dowell Myers, John Pitkin, Julie Park, February 2005
2. *Illegal-immigrant students pin hopes on reform* – San Bernardino Sun 5/21/07
3. UC Office of the President
4. State Dept of Finance, current population survey

What is an “AB 540” student?

“AB 540” students are those students who may qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in California (California Education Code §68130.5). Regardless of immigration status, students may qualify for in-state tuition at the UC, CSU, and CCC, if they meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Attend *high* school in California for three or more years;
- Graduate from a California high school or pass the GED;

And if undocumented, file an affidavit with the college or university stating that they have applied for a lawful immigration status or will apply as soon as they are eligible to do so. Less than 5% of University of California AB 540 students are undocumented.

What will the California Dream Act specifically change?

Institutional Student Aid: **SB 1301/ AB 2083** would allow AB 540 students to apply and compete for institutional aid administered by the attending college or university (i.e. State University Grant, UC Grant, scholarships, and loan programs)

Political Climate

After Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the California Dream Act, SB 160, in 2005, students continued to play a leading role in the movement for this bill and the bill was resubmitted last year. Although the Governor vetoed the last version of the California DREAM Act in 2007, the bill garnered overwhelming support in both houses and across the State. Because of the breadth of support the California DREAM Act, **SB1301**, was reintroduced in with greater confidence that this year.

With a broad coalition of students, youth, faith, chambers of commerce, labor, and community groups the California Dream Act campaign will work to ensure its passage by September 2008.

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