

# To Be, We DREAM

## DREAM Act Fact Sheet

Unless we work to change how our immigration system treats young people, the talents of some of our nation's brightest and most talented future leaders will continue to be wasted.

### Building the Student Legalization Movement

**Stand with immigrant children and young people to gain access to higher education for all.**

#### Make your voice heard:

1. Call your Senators and Representatives at 202-224-3121, President Bush at 202-456-1111, or visit [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) to find "Your Congress Member."

2. Organize your school to hold workshops and actions.

3. Contact NAKASEC to join listservs and get active.

*To get involved or for more information:*

National Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
323-937-3703  
[www.nakasec.org](http://www.nakasec.org)

Korean Resource Center  
323-937-3718  
[www.krcla.org](http://www.krcla.org)

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center  
773-506-9158  
[www.chicagokrcc.org](http://www.chicagokrcc.org)

YKASEC-Empowering the Korean American Community  
718-460-5600  
[www.ykasec.org](http://www.ykasec.org)



Each year 65,000 undocumented immigrant students graduate from US high schools, uncertain whether they will be able to achieve their dreams. These students are U.S.- raised children of immigrants who are denied the opportunity to build a future in America, the country they call home. Undocumented students face many hardships including:

- difficulties pursuing higher education because they are denied financial aid, scholarships, and in-state tuition rates in most states;
- facing the possibility that they are not likely to work in their field or study of choice even if they have the resources to graduate; and
- living daily with the fear of being deported to a country that they barely know.

*There are 1.8 million undocumented immigrants under the age of 18 nationally. 1 in 5 Korean Americans are undocumented, including a significant percentage under 18.*

*According to the Census Bureau, a college graduate earns about a million dollars more in lifetime earnings than a student who does not graduate from high school.*

#### Hope for Immigrant Students

Understanding the plight of these students, bi-partisan bills such as the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act and the Student Adjustment Act, were first introduced by Congress in 2001. The DREAM Act has since been re-introduced in every Congressional session to date.

To qualify for the DREAM Act, a student must:

- Have been brought to the US more than five years prior to the enactment of the bill;
- Be 15 years old or younger at time of entry into the country; and
- Graduate from a U.S. high school or obtain a GED.

Qualifying students are eligible for conditional status which allows them to stay in the country for 6 years. During this time the student must graduate from a two-year college, complete two years towards a four-year degree, or serve in the U.S. armed forces for two years.

Students who meet these requirements will be granted legal permanent resident status.



***All the children in the country should be children of the country.***  
- Bob Moses

**In-State Tuition:** In most states, undocumented students must pay out-of-state tuition even if they meet the residency requirements for in-state rates. Because out-of-state tuition can cost several times more and undocumented students are not eligible for scholarship or any form of financial aid, it is difficult for most to attend college.

Ten states (California, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Washington) have passed laws providing in-state tuition for undocumented students. Many other states are considering similar laws.

Currently students are eligible for in-state tuition in the ten states if they:

1. Have attended a school in the state for a certain number of years;
2. Graduated from a high school in the state; and
3. Signed an affidavit stating that they will legalize as soon as they are eligible.