



California County Superintendents
Educational Services Association

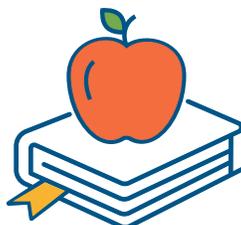


CALIFORNIA: IMMIGRATION & INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS

All students, regardless of citizenship status, have a constitutionally protected right to attend a public school.¹ (Plyler v. Doe)



250,000 undocumented children are enrolled in California schools.⁴



5,000 California teachers are DACA recipients.⁶



Another 5,000 California classified staff (e.g. secretaries, bus drivers, janitors) are DACA recipients.⁷



California is home to more than **10 million immigrants**.²



199,230 Californians have received DACA status.³



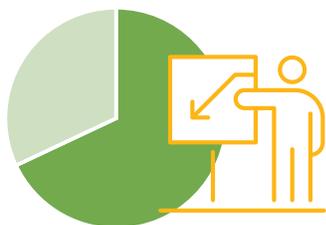
Approximately 40,000 DACA recipients are currently enrolled in a California institution of higher learning.⁵



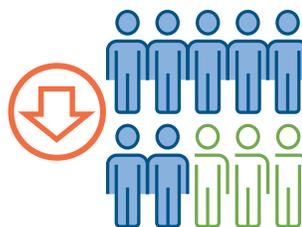
DACA recipients contribute more than \$11.6 billion to the CA economy every year.⁸

44% of Fortune 500 companies based in California were founded by immigrants or their children. Those firms generate \$575.4B in annual revenue, and employ 964,798 people globally.⁹

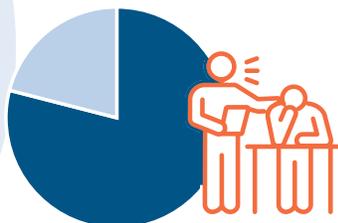
Changes to federal immigration policy have been linked to a drop in attendance and academic performance and a large increase in the number of students experiencing anxiety, fear, and behavioral issues.



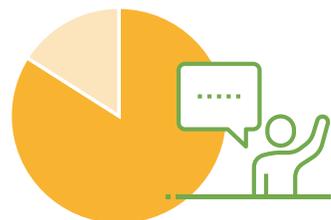
68% of teachers and administrators reported a drop in attendance since federal immigration enforcement policies have changed.¹⁰



70% reported academic decline among immigrant students.¹¹



79% indicated an increase in behavior or emotional problems.¹²



84% reported a rise in student concerns about immigration enforcement issues.¹³

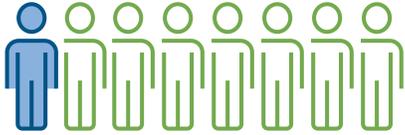
"All it takes is for one person to say, 'ICE is on campus' and I lose 20 percent of my students. Not only are these kids facing the trauma of racism, violence, and poverty, but now they have mental health needs. All of this has had a very traumatic effect on children and makes it very hard for them to focus on school."

- Jose Navarro, Principal of a Los Angeles High School¹⁴

"We have children that are terrified to [come to] campus. One third-grade class started on Wednesday with five children crying and fearing they would be deported."

- Devon Davis, Principal of a Sacramento Elementary School¹⁵

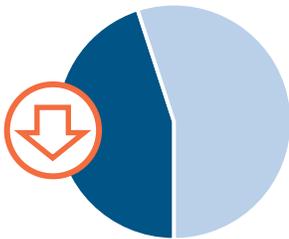
Parent involvement, which is critically related to student success, has declined and school climate has suffered since DACA has been threatened.



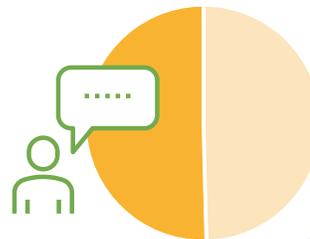
1 in 8 California students have at least one parent who is undocumented.¹⁶



1 in 3 California students lives in a household with at least one undocumented family member.¹⁷



44.5% of teachers and administrators have reported a decline in parent participation.¹⁸



49.6% of parents expressed concerns about immigration issues or enforcement to school staff.¹⁹

The number of ICE arrests nationally of immigrants with no criminal history more than doubled in 2017. About 11,700 more people with no criminal history have been arrested from January through June than during the same time period last year.²⁰

In order for students to have the capacity for learning and academic achievement, students and families must feel safe attending and traveling to and from school.

Educators and administrators have witnessed an increase in bullying, harassment related to race, use of racial slurs, and a rise in school campus graffiti espousing hate and intolerance.

"Counselors at the elementary and middle school levels are dealing with kids teasing each other about immigration and diversity issues — students appear to be mimicking what they see in the media regarding treatment of immigrants and other minority groups."

– Eric Blanco, School Counselor at a Santa Maria High School²⁴



37% of educators reported an increase in bullying in school.²¹



The Office of Civil Rights reported a 25% increase in complaints of racial harassment in 2017.²²



The California Department of Justice reported a 21% increase in race-based hate crimes in 2016.²³

"In Contra Costa County, some schools have been defaced by racist graffiti, and students have experienced anti-Semitic and other types of hate speech and actions. The decision to suspend DACA has also traumatized many students, who are concerned about their parents being pulled from the safety of their own homes. Many students are afraid to go to school, and many are scared about what's going to happen to their families."

– Karen Sakata, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools²⁵

CCSESA strongly rejects all messages of intolerance, racism, and hatred, and affirms our commitment to actively support and protect the students, families and communities we serve.

Racism, fear, and intolerance have no place in California schools. County superintendents will continue to work to make schools a safe place for all students and families.

CCSESA asks Congress and the Administration to do the following:



Reauthorize DACA immediately.

- Protect California's students, teachers, and families.



Adopt federal policies with regards to immigration enforcement near public schools.

- Ensure that students and families feel safe attending and traveling to and from school.



Develop guidance for safe and inclusive schools.

- Ensure that bullying and harassment are not tolerated in schools.



Reject any attempt to disqualify applications for citizenship based on past receipt of education services

- Support participation in migrant and EL programs.

CCSESA believes that California's strength lies in our diversity. We ask Congress to work with us to ensure that all schools prioritize inclusion and promote educational equity and racial and social justice.

ENDNOTES

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- 4 Education Trust West. Undocumented Students in California: What You Should Know. https://29v0kg31gs803wndhe1sj1hd-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/11/ETW_CA-Undocumented-Students-What-You-Need-to-Know-FINAL-April-2017.pdf
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- 6 The American Prospect. Mentors Under Siege: California's DACA Teachers. February 13, 2018. <http://prospect.org/article/mentors-under-siege-californias-daca-teachers>
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- 13 Ibid.
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The 58 California county superintendents of schools are state constitutional officers who collectively work to ensure the equitable implementation of statewide curriculum and services for California's more than 6,000,000 students.

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