

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

September 6, 2017

Dear Santa Cruz County Families,

On Monday, the President issued an order ending DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). DACA allows undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children to legally remain in the country to go to school and find employment.

More than 200,000 California students are impacted by the rollback. Some DACA protected immigrants may only have six months left in the United States. This change in policy impacts many current and former Santa Cruz County students and families. On Monday, the California Wellness Foundation published the following:

Over the past five years, 800,000 young people in the U.S. have pursued the legal channels available to them through the DACA program. A recent national survey of DACA recipients have yielded some important **results**:

- 97% of survey respondents are currently employed or enrolled in school.
- At least 72% of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies, including Apple, General Motors, Amazon, JPMorgan Chase, and Home Depot, employ DACA recipients.

Other **research** has estimated that DACA beneficiaries would contribute **\$460.3 billion** to the U.S. gross domestic product over the next decade, if the program were to continue.

As educational leaders in our county, it is our responsibility to create safe, welcoming environments supporting the success of all students. The elimination of DACA further marginalizes our immigrant families, making some students feel unwanted and unsafe. Many of our students arrive in this country having escaped incredibly difficult living conditions and war-torn communities. Their parents brought them here with hope for their physical safety and well-being and for their futures. All parents have dreams for their children and will sacrifice to keep them safe and well.

Last year, all of our School Boards in Santa Cruz County passed resolutions in support of immigrant students and their families. We hold steadfast to these resolutions in spite of the President's recent actions on DACA. Every child and every family is welcome and supported in Santa Cruz County Schools. We are committed to supporting the success of all of students.

At the bottom of this message is a list of links to immigration resources and supports. If you have questions, concerns or are in need of support of any kind, please contact your school or district office. We are here to serve and support you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laurie Bruton
Superintendent
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Eric Gross
Superintendent
Pacific Elementary School District

Tanya Krause
Superintendent
Scotts Valley Unified School District

Michelle McKinny
Superintendent
Happy Valley Elementary School District

Diane Morgenstern
Superintendent
Mountain Elementary School District

Kris Munro
Superintendent
Santa Cruz City Schools

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez
Superintendent
Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Stephanie Siddens
Superintendent
Bonny Doon Elementary School District

Dr. Tamra Taylor
Superintendent
Live Oak School District

Scott Turnbull
Superintendent
Soquel Union Elementary School District

Michael Watkins
County Superintendent of Schools

- *What is DACA?*

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an American immigration policy founded by the Obama administration in June 2012. DACA allows certain illegal immigrants who entered the country as minors, to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit

- *What do we need to know about the end of DACA?*

https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/community_advisory_-_end_of_dacav2.pdf

- *Immigration Rights Eng/SP*

https://www.acsa.org/application/files/3615/0301/0561/QA_IMMIGRATION_FLIER_EDITED_8-17.pdf

https://www.acsa.org/application/files/8114/8779/0708/UNDOC_FACT_SHEET_SPANISH_FINAL.pdf

- *SC County Immigration Project*

<http://cabinc.org/2017/04/21/santa-cruz-county-immigration-project-sccip/>