Support for Immigrant Youth

The rapidly growing majority

Presented by:
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Topics for Today

• Importance of immigrant youth in the US

• Barriers faced by undocumented students

• The DREAM Act and DACA

• Supporting undocumented youth and their families
Expectations

Objectives
• Learn of the power and reality of immigrant youth
• Know the causes of high level of stress in youth and barriers they face
• Understand the difference between the Dream act and DACA.

Outcomes
• Join the Dreamers efforts and share their stories
• Use the knowledge and tools acquired to support young people on their way to a post secondary education
• Work on the strengthening of relationships as it is key factor for academic success
Community Building

- Do you know a Dreamer or anyone impacted by the DACA decision?

- In what way has that relationship impacted your viewpoint on the issue of immigration?

- Pick a partner and pair-share.
Collective Wisdom

• K-W-L

• K:
What do you know about undocumented youth?

• W:
What would you like to know about supporting undocumented youth?
Introduction and Background

Undocumented Immigrant youth in the U.S.
The most vulnerable group served by U.S. schools

80,000 undocumented youth turn 18 each year…

54% get a HS diploma (compared to 84% U.S. born peers)

5-10% enroll continue in higher education

Less than this successfully graduate with a degree
1 of 6 students have an undocumented parent
Who has made a difference in your life?

- Think of two people who have influenced your life during your youth?
  - Academically
  - Other adult

- Who were they?
- How did they impact you?
- If you had them in front of you right now what would you say to them?
What is the reality about our youth?

• They are the future leaders who will fuel our state’s economy

• They strengthen our communities
  • Perseverance
  • Work Ethic
  • Leadership
  • Dreamers
  • Civic engagement
  • Adaptability skills
  • Diverse
  • Culture
  • High level of resilience

• They Maintain and shape our state’s culture, traditions and values
Do we really know their needs?
What is causing high levels of stress in our immigrant youth?

**Cultural**
- Lack of social services
- Low income
- Home dynamics

**Academic**
- Language
- Limited financial aid
- Insufficient access to early childhood education

**Pre-migration**
- Driving
- Extracurricular activities
- Attend nations most segregated schools, discrimination, bullying

**Migration**

**Post-migration**
- Fear of family separation
- Mistrust of school and medical professionals
- Less likely to feel connected to their school environment

**Peer core experiences**

**Immigration related**
Most common obstacles faced by undocumented youth

- College affordability
- Undocumented youth
- Basics for living in the United States
- Laws and policies
Critical conversations about immigration status

• Have you talked to your children about their immigration status?

• Why or why not?

• Video “Undocumented Americans - The story of Jong-Min”

Students have...

- The right to be heard
- The right to a childhood
- The right to be educated
- The right to be healthy
- The right to be treated fairly
Federal laws that prohibit school discrimination

- Civil Rights Act of 1964
- FERPA
- Plyler v. Doe

School districts should make sure their registration policies do not discourage students from attending school.
State legislation in favor of undocumented youth

**AB 540** - In-State tuition

**AB 2000 & SB 68** - 3 years of H.S credit

**AB130/131** - CA Dream Act

**SB 54** - Local resources will not be used to deport undocumented populations

**SB 4** - Extends health coverage for underage students (Health4all)

**AB 699** - Additional protection for undocumented students, can’t collect info on immigration status, need judicial warrant to enter schools, resources for parents

**AB 60** - Driver’s License for undocumented populations

**McKinney-Vento** - Ensures educational rights and protection for students experiencing homelessness

**AB 343** - Refugees and special visa holders enroll as resident status

**AB 21** - Cal State – Requires guidance and protocol when ICE on campus

**SB 257** - Guarantees right to continue attending school after parents have been deported

**AB 81** - Requires notice of EL assessments and parent notification if at risk of becoming long term English learner
Other laws that affect youth

Gang Involvement

“Gang allegations are an easy way to target these kids—just slap on a gang allegation, and they’re likely deportable. There’s little you can do because judges won’t hear it.”

Alexandra Perendo Carroll, Esq.,
Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Marijuana

Don’t use marijuana until you are a U.S. citizen. Don’t work in the marijuana industry

https://www.ilrc.org/deportation-by-any-means-necessary
Brief history of the federal Dream Act

DREAM Act have been introduced by both houses of Congress, none have become law— the closest to passing was in 2010 called “DREAMERS” DACA BORN -2012 Obama 19 states like California and Illinois have passed their own versions DREAM ACT with certain tuition benefits 16 years various versions have been introduced all mimic the original Dream Act legislation

The most recent versions of the Dream Act in July 2017, A CLEAN DREAM ACT- does not use Dreamers as bargaining chips or political pawns

The struggle continues
What is DACA?

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Federal program launched by President Barack Obama (June 15th, 2012)

- It grants renewable work permits for two years
- Offers temporary protection relief from deportation
- Immigrants brought to the United States without authorization when they were children
- The program protects 800,000 young unauthorized immigrants
- Does not offer a path to citizenship
How can we best serve our undocumented youth?
Basic things that all undocumented youth must know

Social Security Numbers
- How
- Rights
- PIN#

Working rights
- Need?
- Age?

Filing taxes
- Who?
- How?
- Have not paid?

Public aid
- Type
- Who
- How

State Identification Cards
- When
- Age
- Legal status

Bank accounts and credit cards
- How?
- When?
- Credit reports

Enrolling in selective
- Enroll
- Who?
- When?
Factors that have positively made a difference in the lives of undocumented youth

**SECURITY:**
Support from family, educators, counselors

**PRINCIPALS:**
Build trust, ensure protection

**SUPPORT FROM SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL:**
Sense of stability, consistency

**MENTORSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING:**
Share personal stories, Strengths as immigrants
Positive role model

**NURTURE:**
Positive, Progressive environment
Share successful stories, Moral support

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:**
Advance coursework
Engaged parents
Extracurricular activities
Strengthening human connections!
Relationships! Relationships! Relationships!
L: Today I learned...

“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD”

—NELSON MANDELA
Ultima palabra