

Important DACA Update for Educators

On Sept. 5, 2017, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. However, three federal district judges in CA, NY, & DC have issued nationwide orders allowing DACA to remain in place.

Here are seven things educators need to know about the planned DACA phaseout and the nationwide injunction:

1 Work permits issued under DACA will remain valid until their expiration date.

Action: Check the expiration date of your EAD (employment authorization document or work permit), and remind your DACAmented students to do the same. To determine when DACA and work permits expire, check the I-797 Approval Notice and the bottom of the EAD.

2 DACA renewals: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reopened the application process for anyone whose DACA has expired.

Action: Don't wait to start the renewal process. There are efforts underway that jeopardize the DACA renewal process. Renewals will be accepted while the nationwide injunction is in place. Seek legal assistance if your EAD expired or it's expiring soon. Many local agencies are providing free assistance for the renewal application. Visit at www.RenewMyDACA.com for help.

Reminder, in order to qualify for DACA renewal:

- You must not have departed the U.S. on or after August 15, 2012, without first having been granted advance parole.
- You must have resided continuously in the U.S. from the time you submitted the initial request for DACA up until the present time.
- You must not have been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and must not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.



- 3 New DACA applications will not be accepted.** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will not accept or process first-time applications for DACA.
- 4 Applications for advance parole to travel abroad are no longer available.** The Department of Homeland Security will no longer grant DACA recipients permission to travel abroad through advance parole.
- 5 Know your rights.** DACA's repeal doesn't change the fact that everyone in the United States, documented or undocumented, has rights. You and your students have rights—you are not alone.
- 6 Path forward.** We will continue to fight with you. Six years ago, we mobilized, organized and marched for the establishment of DACA, and we will continue to do everything in our power to get the federal Dream Act passed and to protect immigrant youth and their families across the country from the threat of deportation. For resources to help you and your students in this difficult time, visit www.weareheretostay.org.
- 7 Educational access rights are still in place.** All students, including undocumented, refugee and unaccompanied children, have a right to a free public education. For more, download the FAQ at www.aft.org/immigration.

What Is DACA?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is a federal program that the Department of Homeland Security announced on June 15, 2012, for undocumented youth who meet a number of requirements and pay a \$495 application fee. Individuals granted DACA are protected from deportation for renewable two-year periods and are eligible to apply for a Social Security number and work permit.