

Leadership Strategies for Supporting Undocumented Students

Community Center for Education Results & Puget Sound College & Career Network

Current Climate:

- Daily experience for students and their families:
 - Students are *scared* for their family and their own safety
 - Students want safe spaces where they can express their concerns, with people who will support them and empathize with them and their family
 - Families are scared that they're at threat of deportation and wonder what will happen to their children if they get detained and/or deported
 - Includes undocumented parents with undocumented children and U.S.-born citizen children
 - Currently, community leaders are receiving continuous requests regarding WASFA, student privacy, lawyer fraud, undocumented families' rights, and seeking resources
 - Receive requests to go to financial aid nights, college conferences at schools, and organizations' immigrant events to talk with undocumented young people and families
 - Receive requests from various youth-serving community based organizations to do trainings on how to best support undocumented students

Supporting Undocumented Students Trainings:

- Offered four 4 hour professional development trainings in December 2016 - January 2017
 - 40-50 people at each training, 40 people on interest waiting list
 - Organizations and unions are also asking for 2-3 full trainings in the next month

Statistics and Demographics:

- 250,000 undocumented immigrants in Washington State
 - 64% from Mexico, 3% from Guatemala, 3% from India, 3% from Vietnam, 3% from Korea, and 14% from other countries
 - This shows the importance of sharing resources beyond English and Spanish
 - 21,000 are under age of 16 (~9% of total), 38,000 are between 16-24 (~17% of total)
- An elementary school classroom has on average two students with an undocumented parent
- 43,000 undocumented people in Washington are eligible for DACA, ~30,000 have been approved
 - There is uncertainty on what will happen to DACA and potentially all of these 30,000 people are at threat to lose their work-permit and protection from deportation. More details at: [DACA Advisory from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project:](https://www.nwirp.org/resources/dacadreamers/)
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K-12 Coalition to Protect Undocumented Students: www.undocustudentcoalitionwa.org

Next Steps for Districts:

1. Release a Public Statement:

- Vow to create safe spaces for undocumented students and their families.
- Remind staff of their obligation to protect students from bullying, harassment, and intimidation.
- Existing statements are available here: <http://coalition.psesd.org/resource-repository/>

2. Reaffirm commitments to students' education and human rights:

- Restriction of ICE agents' access to your schools and districts
- Protection of student information and their families under FERPA
- Transparency of hate crime and/or hate language reporting process and incidents

3. Provide Resources and Trainings for Staff:

- CCER & PSCCN partnership: Host our training in your district: Supporting Undocumented Students. Requires 4 hours, 30-40 people, and pre-arranged meeting time and location.
- Share resources with your staff on privacy concerns (Common Myths/FAQs), role of staff, opportunities for visible support
- Stay updated with resources, K-12 Coalition to Protect Undocumented Students: www.undocustudentcoalitionwa.org

4. Support your students and families:

- Provide spaces where students and families can learn about their rights, development of safety plans, and provide space for free legal consultations
 - i. Colectiva Legal and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- Partner with and learn from community organizations in your area who support undocumented families

5. Participate in annual national Coming Out days as a district and as schools:

- Spring: National Institutions Coming Out Day
unitedwedream.org/celebrate-national-institutions-coming-day-us-2
- Fall: National Educators Coming Out Day
unitedwedream.org/about/projects/education-deep

6. Explore ways to sustain this work

- Continue investing in proactive family engagement programming in schools, interpretation services, and opportunities to learn directly from students and families who are undocumented.