February 22, 2018

Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, and High School Principals:

The California Dream Act Application

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) understand that, in light of the current political climate, there is still confusion regarding the California Dream Act program, which allows certain undocumented and out-of-state students (dreamer students) to receive state financial aid while attending college in California. The California Dream Act is a state law, separate and distinct from the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Despite what is happening at the federal level, state financial aid for dreamer students remains legal in California. A dreamer student does not need to be DACA-certified to be eligible for a public education or state financial aid. With or without DACA status, a dreamer student will continue to have access to most state financial aid.

We encourage you to communicate with your students and their families that the information provided via the California Dream Act Application is used solely for state financial aid eligibility determination. As it has done in the past, CSAC will continue to protect this information to the fullest extent of the law.

We hope that families will conclude—as we at CSAC, CDE, and public colleges and universities have—that the opportunity represented by a college education in California is a pathway to success for dreamer students. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting students and families. The CSAC and CDE are proud to stand with Governor Brown, leaders of the State Legislature, multiple local governments, and our state’s public and private colleges and universities in upholding the rights of California’s dreamer students.

Should you have any questions, please contact the CSAC’s Institutional Support Unit by phone at 888-294-0153 or the CDE High School Innovations and Initiatives Office by phone at 916-319-0893.


Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education

Lupita Cortez Alcalá
Executive Director
California Student Aid Commission

TT:pc
2018-00960