

TOP 10 WAYS TO SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

1. Engage with an Open Mind

When supporting undocumented students, it's important to know that there won't be a single answer or path for all students. Support requires ongoing investigation and collaboration with other service providers and community leaders. When you don't know something, work WITH students to find out answers so that you can share them with other students and colleagues.

2. Create a Safe Space

- Don't ask undocumented students to self-identify
- Make resources easily available for all students
- Understand that trust takes time
- Be mindful of your language; say "undocumented" rather than "illegal" and avoid terms like "alien" or "illegal immigration"
- Do all you can to identify YOURSELF as an ally/supporter; use posters, bookmarks, and stickers to make your support visible
- Attend Immigrants Rising Webinars

3. Learn about Relevant Institutional Policies & Legislation

- Understand admissions and enrollment policies for undocumented students
- Understand in-state tuition and state-based aid requirements for undocumented students (if applicable) www.uleadnet.org
- Stay up-to-date on the status of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Encourage eligible youth to contact a legal services provider prior to renewing immigrantsrising.org/resource/steps-to-renew-daca
- Research local and statewide immigration-related policies that affect your students and their families
- Keep informed about proposed legislation related to immigration policies

4. Find & Advocate for Scholarships and Financial Support

- Keep track of scholarships that don't require citizenship or residency. Help students apply to as many available scholarships as possible.
- Advocate for scholarship providers to consider and support undocumented students. Share Immigrants Rising's lists of scholarships that don't require social security number: immigrantsrising.org/resource/undergraduate-scholarships
immigrantsrising.org/resource/graduate-scholarships

5. Build Your Own Educator Network

- Build relationships and collaborate with other educators at your school or district
- Reach out to educators at local colleges who are supportive of undocumented students
- Add your name to Immigrants Rising's mailing list to learn about new resources, webinars and educator gatherings: immigrantsrising.org
- Connect to DEEP's National Educator Network and Campaigns: unitedwedream.org/our-work/education-justice

6. Connect Students to Undocumented Community Leaders and Role Models

- Visit mydocumentedlife.org, defineamerican.com and phdreamers.org
- Find and connect students to local, state or national undocumented youth advocacy organizations
- Identify older undocumented students who can serve as role models

7. Involve Parents

- Educate parents about why undocumented students should pursue college
- Encourage and support good communication between students and parents Invite parents into the college application and enrollment process
- Share Immigrants Rising's Guide for Parents of Undocumented Students

8. Access Reputable Legal Information & Assistance

- Identify reputable, affordable legal service providers in your area. Visit immigrationlawhelp.org
- Encourage students to use Immigrants Rising's free, anonymous, and online Immigration Legal Intake Service to get information about their eligibility for immigration remedies. Visit immigrantsrising.org/legalintake
- Refer students to Immigrants Rising's "Beyond Deferred Action: Long-Term Immigration Remedies Every Undocumented Young Person Should Know About" guide
- Encourage students to pursue potential immigration remedies (if available to them)

9. Build Agency and Power

- Help students start a group/club to raise awareness about immigration issues
- Inform students about their rights: ilrc.org and www.nilc.org
- Connect students to culturally competent and responsive mental/emotional health services
- Educate students about how other marginalized groups have organized against their marginalization
- Build faith — a sense of agency and a belief that things will change for the better

10. Create Spaces for Storytelling and Creative Expression

- Encourage students to share their stories (when safe)
- Share Immigrants Rising's creative work website: thingsillneversay.org
- Support undocumented artists: 22 Powerful Images by Dreamers tinyurl.com/images-by-dreamers
- Encourage students to build their own meaning and identity that is different from the negative stigma and stereotypes about undocumented immigrants

About Immigrants Rising

Founded in 2006, Immigrants Rising transforms individuals and fuels broader changes. With resources and support, undocumented young people can get an education, pursue careers, and build a brighter future for themselves and their community. Immigrants Rising is a fiscally-sponsored project of Community Initiatives.

For more information, visit immigrantsrising.org