



OFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2019

To: College Community

From: Dr. Victor G. Alicea, President

Subject: New York State DREAM ACT

I am pleased to announce that on Friday May 31, 2019, I as a member of the Board of Trustees of Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) made the primary motion to approve the New York State DREAM ACT that provides opportunities for undocumented students access to New York State TAP Grants and Scholarships.

Higher Education Services Corporation

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Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act

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The Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act gives undocumented and other students access to New York State-administered grants and scholarships that support their higher education costs.

*“An investment in young immigrants’ futures
is an investment in New York’s future”*

The DREAM Act opens the doors of higher education to thousands of students, providing access to the new Excelsior Scholarship, the Tuition Assistance Program, as well as other state-administered scholarships that were not previously available to them.

Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

If you fit one of the descriptions below, you may be eligible for one or more NYS student financial aid awards under the DREAM Act:

1. Your permanent home is in NYS and you are or have ONE of the following:

- A. [U-Visa](#)
- B. [T-Visa](#)
- C. [Temporary protected status](#), pursuant to the Federal Immigration Act of 1990
- D. [Without lawful immigration status](#)

AND you meet ONE of the following criteria:

- a. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in an ***undergraduate program*** at a NYS college within ***five*** years of receiving your NYS high school diploma **OR**
- b. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in a ***graduate program*** at a NYS college within ***ten*** years of receiving your NYS high school diploma **OR**
- c. You attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in an ***undergraduate program*** at a NYS college within ***five*** years of receiving a NYS high school equivalency diploma **OR**

d. You attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in a **graduate program** at a NYS college within **ten** years of receiving your NYS high school equivalency diploma **OR**

e. Are charged in-State college tuition for any reason

Note: Individuals without lawful immigration status will be required to file an affidavit with their college stating that they filed an application to legalize their immigration status or will file such application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

2. Your permanent home is outside of NYS and you are or have ONE of the following:

A. U.S. citizen

B. Permanent lawful resident

C. Of a class of refugees paroled by the attorney general under his or her parole authority pertaining to the admission of aliens to the U.S.

D. U-Visa

E. T-Visa

F. **Temporary protected status**, pursuant to the Federal Immigration Act of 1990

G. **Without lawful immigration status**

AND you meet ONE of the following criteria:

a. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in an **undergraduate program** at a NYS college within **five** years of receiving a NYS high school diploma **OR**

b. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in a **graduate program** at a NYS college within **ten** years of receiving your NYS high school diploma **OR**

c. Attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in an **undergraduate program** at a NYS college within **five** years of receiving a NYS high school equivalency diploma **OR**

d. You attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency

diploma, and applied for attendance in a **graduate program** at a NYS college within **ten** years of receiving your NYS high school equivalency diploma **OR**

e. Are charged in-State college tuition for any reason

Note: Individuals without lawful immigration status will be required to file an affidavit with their college stating that they filed an application to legalize their immigration status or will file such application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Step 2: Completing the Application

Students meeting the eligibility criteria can apply for one or more HESC-administered grant and scholarship programs by visiting our website. **Check back for more details and launch date for the application.**

You may apply for multiple grant or scholarship awards, but will only need to complete one application.

The application will be simple and straight forward, and all information provided will be used **ONLY** for determining eligibility for and administering awards.

Applicants without lawful immigration status will not be asked for their home address and will **NOT** have to upload financial records.

Step 3: Monitoring the Status of Your Application

Once you have submitted an application, it is your responsibility to monitor the status of your application and to make sure your application is complete. You will be able to monitor the status of your application online after submitting your application and uploading any required documentation.

Step 4: Award Notification and Acceptance

You will be notified by text or email when a determination has been made regarding your eligibility for each award for which you have applied. If you are determined to be eligible for an award, your next step will be to accept the award!

For certain awards, you must sign a contract agreeing to live and/or work in New York State for a required number of years after graduation as a condition of receiving the award. If you decide not to accept an award with a post-graduation requirement, please indicate this on the contract, and let us know why.

Term Definitions

Temporary Protected Status (TPS): allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if during the time they were in the U.S. something catastrophic happened in their country of origin preventing their safe return – for example war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic. TPS allows people to work legally and be protected from deportation.

T-Visa: allows the granting of lawful status to noncitizen victims of human trafficking, as well as their immediate family members, who assist in the prosecution of the trafficking. It allows people to remain and work temporarily in the U.S.

U-Visa: allows for the granting of lawful status to noncitizen crime victims who suffered significant physical or mental abuse (and their immediate family members) who assist in the prosecution of the crime. It allows people to remain and work temporarily in the U.S.

Without Lawful Immigration Status: living in the U.S. illegally either because lawful status never existed or has ended.

Tax Implications

Any award payment received may have tax implications. Any questions regarding this should be directed to a tax professional, the Internal Revenue Service, or the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.

Translations



[Dream Act \(Spanish\)](#)



[Dream Act \(Traditional Chinese\)](#)



[Dream Act \(Haitian-Creole\)](#)



[Dream Act \(Russian\)](#)



[Dream Act \(Bengali\)](#)



[Dream Act \(Korean\)](#)

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