



Comparison Chart: DACA, California Dream Act, AB 540, and DREAM Act

	Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)	California Dream Act	AB 540 (California)	DREAM Act
Current status of law or policy	Federal DHS policy (not law) announced by the Obama Administration	California state law	California state law	Proposed federal law
Date of enactment	June 15, 2012	2011	2001	Not yet passed
Description	DHS program that will defer the removal of certain eligible undocumented youths and allow them to apply for work authorization if they are granted DACA.	The California Dream Act of 2011 consists of two Assembly Bills, AB 130 and AB 131. Together, these bills allow undocumented students to apply for and receive private scholarships (AB 130) and state financial aid, university grants, and community college fee waivers (AB 131).	Allows eligible students to pay instate tuition at: - California Community Colleges - California State Universities (CSUs) - Universities of California (UCs)	Proposed law would legalize the status of undocumented youth. The DREAM Act stands for the Development Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act. The bill was first introduced in 2001.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under 31 as of 6/15/12 - Entered the US before the age of 16 - Continuous residence in the US from 6/15/07 through 6/15/12 - Physical presence in the US on 6/15/12 - Entry without inspection or lawful immigration status expired as of 6/15/12 - In school, graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, obtained a GED certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Armed Forces/Coast Guard 	<p>Same as AB 540.</p> <p>For Cal Grant, student must also meet other Cal Grant eligibility criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended a California high school for a minimum of three years - Graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent (GED or California High School Proficiency exam) - Student who is without lawful immigration status must file an affidavit with the college or university stating that he or she has filed an application 	The requirements have changed with each introduction of the bill. Basic requirements are: - entered the US at the age of 15 or younger, - present in the US for 5 years - graduated from high school or obtained a GED, - under the age of 30 (or 35) at the time of the bill.

	- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not pose a threat to national security or public safety		to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so	
How to Apply	<p>Submit to USCIS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed Forms I-821D, I-765, and I-765WS - Supporting documents demonstrating you meet each of the eligibility requirements - Two identical passport-style photographs - Fee payment of \$465 - G-1145 (optional) 	<p>Complete & submit the 2012-13 California Dream Act Application</p> <p>Starting Jan. 2013, the 2013-14 California Dream Act Application becomes available for AB 131 institutional grants, community college fee waivers, and Cal Grants for the 2013-14 school year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fill out a “California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request” - Submit proof of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) - Turn in form and documents to the Admissions Office or Office of the Registrar at your college or university 	The DREAM Act has not passed, thus, no one can apply for it.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection from removal (deportation) for 2 years - work authorization document - Social security number 	<p>AB 130 allows students who meet AB 540 criteria to apply for and receive private scholarships for public colleges and universities.</p> <p>AB 131 allows students who meet AB 540 criteria to apply for and receive state-funded financial aid such as institutional grants, community college fee waivers, Cal Grant and Chafee Grant.</p>	Allows eligible students to pay instate tuition at all public colleges and universities in California.	Proposed benefits have included lawful conditional residency that may lead to lawful permanent residency and citizenship.
Bars	Convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety	None	None	Varies by bill, generally includes certain grounds of inadmissibility & criminal offenses
Risks	Temporary program that may be terminated at any time	No known risks	No known risks	N/A