

304 724-8130

**College Access**

- Gathered information from WVTESOL members and others on laws/rules, perceived and actual barriers to college arising immigration status
- Surveyed, called/emailed teachers and colleges and found that some immigrant students are given incorrect information and face unnecessary barriers
- Wrote and posted a WVTESOL Position Paper which urges fully informing educators at all levels of the rights of immigrant students on access to public institutions of higher education in WV
- Requested the WVDOE share information on college for non-citizens with K-12 educators
- Conferred with the legal department at the WV Higher Education Policy Commission and referred colleges with questions to HEPC
- Conferred with attorneys at the WV Human Rights Commission to clarify issues
- Following referrals from educators about questionable practices, provided information to 3 public and one private higher education institution which resulted in opening admission for students who had been denied based on immigration status

You can help by becoming informed, sharing information with colleagues and students, and helping or referring immigrant students facing barriers.

**WV English Only Bill**

- Provided information to WVTESOL members regarding 2012 WV legislative session's attempt to pass an English As Official / English Only bill
- Members contacted their legislators
- Bill passed in the House, but did not get out of the Senate Judiciary Committee for a Senate vote where it was expected to pass
- Same or similar bill likely to be reintroduced next year

You can help by informing your legislators of your expert opinion on restrictions on the use of other languages in state activities. You likely know much more than your legislator about language learning, the benefits of multilingualism, and the importance of building cultural and linguistic connections in education and in creating strong communities.

**Some resources and info about college for immigrant, DACA and undocumented students in WV**

<https://www.iacac.org/undocumented/questions/>

Questions for students/counselors to ask of colleges when looking at options

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-undocumented-students> General questions answered. Section on paying for college

<http://unitedwedream.org/about/our-missions-goals/>

A self-advocacy resource and organization for "Dreamers" College info under Education

<http://www.nacacnet.org/issues-action/LegislativeNews/Pages/Undocumented.aspx>  
<http://www.nacacnet.org/research/KnowledgeCenter/Documents/UndocumentedCollegeStudents.pdf>.

National association college admissions professionals- thorough on various aspects. Note: WV is a state with “no policy,” in effect, leaving the door open

From the WV Human Rights Act

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/wvcode/code.cfm?chap=05&art=11>

§5-11-2. Declaration of policy.

It is the public policy of the state of West Virginia to provide all of its citizens equal opportunity for employment, equal access to places of public accommodations, and equal opportunity in the sale, purchase, lease, rental and financing of housing accommodations or real property. Equal opportunity in the areas of employment and public accommodations is hereby declared to be a human right or civil right of all persons without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, blindness or disability. Equal opportunity in housing accommodations or real property is hereby declared to be a human right or civil right of all persons without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, blindness, disability or familial status.

The denial of these rights to properly qualified persons by reason of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, blindness, disability or familial status is contrary to the principles of freedom and equality of opportunity and is destructive to a free and democratic society.

<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/frequently-asked-questions>

WV Procedural Rule (in- state tuition available for non-citizens based on residency, not immigration status) <http://wvhepcdoc.wvnet.edu/resources/133-25.pdf>

WV Procedural Rule for Community and Technical Colleges (Aliens section on in- state tuition to citizens and green card holders) [http://www.wvctcs.org/images/stories/Regs\\_Rules/135-25.pdf](http://www.wvctcs.org/images/stories/Regs_Rules/135-25.pdf)

National state legislature organization provides info on policies in various states

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/undocumented-student-tuition-overview.aspx>

Federal info on financial aid for undocumented

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

State college association report on undocumented students 2011

<http://www.nacacnet.org/research/KnowledgeCenter/Documents/UndocumentedCollegeStudents.pdf>

<http://unitedwedream.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/DACA-Guide-for-Teachers-2014-FINAL.pdf> AFT teachers guide on college for non-citizen and undocumented students

Q&A for college counselors on advising undocumented students

<http://www.nacacnet.org/research/KnowledgeCenter/Documents/AdvisingUndocumentedStudents.pdf>