

Trump Administration Provides Additional Clarity on the Status of DACA



Last evening, the Department of Homeland Security issued a [fact sheet](#) updating information on the status of the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program. Included in the release was an official rescission of the memorandum that created DAPA along with notice that the DACA program will remain in place. While DAPA had previously been blocked by legal action, DACA currently has over 800,000 students registered for the program.

The release of this fact sheet coincides with the fifth anniversary of the creation of DACA. Established via presidential memorandum in 2012, DACA provides eligible undocumented youth with protection from deportation and a renewable work permit. For community college students who are registered under DACA, it can also provide a pathway for in-state tuition and the ability to work while completing their degrees.

In January, the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) sent a letter to then President-Elect Trump commenting on the importance of DACA: <http://bit.ly/2ro3jnf>.

The information released by the Department of Homeland Security states that the DACA program will remain in effect despite the rescission of DAPA. DACA students who received an extended work authorization of three-years under provisions in the DAPA memorandum will only be eligible for a two-year extension (as is the policy under DACA) when their current permits expire.

The fact sheet that was released by the Department of Homeland Security does not expand upon the Administration's future plans for the program. However, it does indicate the current policy of the Department of Homeland Security. While Homeland Security has been processing applications for DACA, questions had remained regarding the Department's official position. The release of yesterday's fact sheet clarifies that intent.

ACCT has issued a statement regarding the updated information on DACA: <https://www.acct.org/news/acct-statement-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-program>.