

Dear Colleagues:

The New York City Department of Education is committed to fostering an environment that is welcoming to all children and their families, regardless of immigration status or English proficiency. As such, we would like to inform you about a recent change in federal immigration enforcement that may affect some of your students and let you know about additional resources available through our partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to support immigrant students and their families.

On June 15, the Obama Administration announced that it would begin to temporarily defer removal of certain undocumented young people through a process called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. While this process may benefit some young people by allowing them to stay and work in the United States, deferred action does **not** provide a pathway to legal status, green cards or citizenship. Some of your students may have questions about deferred action, including how to find out if they are eligible and where they can get legal assistance. The best way to support them is to do the following:

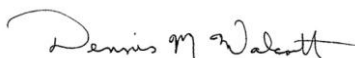
- Direct students to visit NYC.gov and search "deferred action" for more information.
- Inform them about the process for accessing school records (see below).
- To avoid immigration scams, advise students who wish to submit requests for deferred action to first seek legal assistance from qualified immigration attorneys. Students can call the New Americans Hotline at 800-566-7636 or visit NYC.gov for help finding free legal service providers.

To support requests for deferred action, DOE schools will facilitate retrieval of transcripts, attendance records, school registration documents, and GED records (for students who are either currently enrolled or completed a GED program before they turned 21). Students who need access to school records should visit the main office at their current or former school building. Students needing GED records should visit their current or former GED preparation site. Those requiring additional assistance accessing these records can call 311 or 212-374-2323. For multi-lingual flyers with this and other important information, visit NYC.gov/deferredaction.

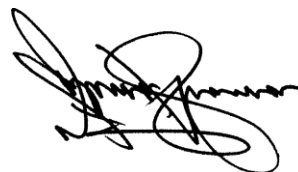
In addition to providing information about deferred action, MOIA recently launched two new programs to support immigrant students and their parents. The first, *NYCitizenship in Schools*, is designed to remove barriers to naturalization for immigrant parents by providing information, application assistance and access to microloans and financial counseling. The second program, *Empowerment, Access, and Success for Immigrant Youth (EASiY)*, informs high school students about the rights and responsibilities associated with different immigration statuses, how to acquire various forms of identification, and immigration benefits for which they may be eligible, including deferred action. For more information about these programs, visit nyc.gov/immigrants, call 212-788-7654, or email moia@cityhall.nyc.gov.

We hope you will take advantage of the multitude of resources the City has made available for your students and families, and we thank you for your continued commitment to their success.

Sincerely,



Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor
NYC Department of Education



Fatima Shama, Commissioner
NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs