15 Ways to Advocate for Undocumented Youth

1. **Provide Hope & Encouragement.** Reassure undocumented students that college is possible, despite the obstacles.

2. **Drop the “I” word.** Instead of the word “illegal,” use the words “undocumented” and “dreamers.” Help change the immigration discourse.

3. **Make information and resources available for ALL students.** Don’t require students to self-identify in order to access information. Many students will be scared to reveal their immigration status or they may not know their status.

4. **Be open-minded.** Don’t make assumptions about who may or may not be undocumented. Undocumented youths aren’t all Latino, Spanish-speaking, or enrolled in ENL classes.

5. **Be knowledgeable** about specific government and college admission policies that affect undocumented students.
   - Department of Education Resources Guide
   - Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
     [http://icirr.org/content/counselor-guide-resources-undocumented-students](http://icirr.org/content/counselor-guide-resources-undocumented-students)
   - Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling
     [https://www.iacac.org/undocumented/](https://www.iacac.org/undocumented/)
   - Educators for Fair Consideration
     [http://e4fc.org/](http://e4fc.org/)

6. **Support pro-immigrant federal, state and city legislation** such as the federal DREAM Act, the IL Dream Act, in-state tuition IL Public Act 93-007.

7. **Identify scholarships** that don’t require citizenship/residency. i.e. thedream.us, [www.illinoisdreamfund.org/](http://www.illinoisdreamfund.org/)

8. **Advocate** for scholarships and private colleges to allow undocumented students to apply and enroll.

9. **Involve parents.** Educate the parents of undocumented students as to the benefits of a college education.

10. **Help create lasting support networks** that can offer ongoing mentoring and advice for undocumented youth.

11. **Refer students** to qualified legal counsel to inquire on possible immigration remedies. i.e. BIA Accredited Agencies

12. **Identify role models:** undocumented youth and/or college graduates from the community to give a presentation to inform, empower and share resources.

13. **Reach out** to organizations, community groups that can support undocumented and immigrant youth, or create a club that supports undocumented students.

14. **Make your school/classroom a safe haven** for undocumented youth. Post a sign in your classroom that states that you support undocumented students and their dreams!

15. **Stay informed** and updated on immigration or education legislation changes that will affect youth, their families and communities. [www.whitehouse.gov/issues/immigration](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/immigration)

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