

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.
 - a. Department of Education Resources Guide <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-releases-resource-guide-supporting-undocumented-students-high-school-and-college>
 - b. Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights <http://icirr.org/content/counselor-guide-resources-undocumented-students>
 - c. Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling <https://www.iacac.org/undocumented/>
 - d. Educators for Fair Consideration <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/
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

