



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Michael Lemus 916-206-1285  
Michael.lemus@csac.ca.gov

### Supreme Court Ruling on DACA Helps Students Continue Pursuit of Higher Education

*“Commission remains committed to the success of California’s students regardless of their immigration status”*

SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 18, 2020 – Today, the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump Administration did not lawfully rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, allowing DACA recipients to keep the legal protections the status provides. California is home to a quarter of all DACA recipients nationally with an estimated 92,000 undocumented students enrolled in our colleges and universities, of which 52,000 are DACA-eligible.

Commission Chair Catalina Cifuentes said, “The Supreme Court’s ruling to maintain the DACA program affirms what we have long believed in California – that these students, brought to our country as children, are deeply rooted in our communities and are deserving of the opportunity to succeed.”

The California Student Aid Commission’s Executive Director, Marlene Garcia, said, “The Commission is thrilled with the Supreme Court’s ruling today that provides renewed hope for hundreds and thousands of DACA students. While there is still critical work to be done in creating permanent legal status and ensuring these students receive support to succeed in higher education, today’s ruling moves in the right direction to empower and better serve these young people.”

With DACA status, students are able to receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), which allows them to work legally and earn money that can be put towards their college expenses. Though California’s state-based financial aid programs and in-state tuition rates are available to DACA recipients and other students who qualify for the AB 540 program, these students remain unable to receive federal financial aid. Without the ability to work and contribute to their college expenses, these students would face an even greater level of unmet financial need than they do today.

The Commission encourages any undocumented student, regardless of DACA eligibility, to explore whether they are eligible for AB 540 status or to apply for state-based aid through the California Dream Act Application. DACA eligibility is not required to qualify for these programs. For more information, please visit the California Dream Act Application webpage at [dream.csac.gov](http://dream.csac.gov) or contact the Commission’s call center at (888) CA GRANT (888-224-7268).

###

The California Student Aid Commission administers the state’s \$2.8 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act

**Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to any qualified California student pursuing a higher education.**

P. O. Box 419026 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9026 (916) 464-8043 [www.csac.ca.gov](http://www.csac.ca.gov)

*Aid Commission serves to educate, inform, and support students, their educational institutions, and the professionals who assist them. Please visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov> or follow us on [Twitter](#) @castudentaid.*