



Making California's Higher Education Accessible



About CHIRLA

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) was formed in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles, promote harmonious multi-ethnic and multi-racial human relations that empowers immigrants and their allies to build a more just society. CHIRLA works on local, state, and federal policy that affects our immigrant communities., and engages community members across generations.

CHIRLA's Membership

- Household Workers
- Day Laborers
- Immigrant Students
 - Wise Up! (High School Students)
 - CA Dream Network (College Students)



CHIRLA's Executive Director Angelica Salas

Going to College: AB 540



CHIRLA's Wise Up! high school students present at AB 540 signing.

Before AB540



- Before 2001 undocumented students living in California had to pay out-of-state tuition for colleges/universities in CA.
- Out-of-state tuition made college out of reach for many undocumented students.
- Thousands of undocumented students live in CA, graduate from CA high schools, pay taxes, and help their community.

What is AB540?

- A law in CA that allows eligible students: U.S. Citizens, Legal Permanent Residents and undocumented students qualify for in-state tuition.
- AB 540 does not make you eligible for financial aid
- AB 540 does not provide a path to fix your immigration status



What are the AB540 requirements?

- 1.) Have attended a California high school for 3 or more full academic years (between grades 9 through 12. They do not need to be consecutive years)
- 2.) Have or will graduate from a California high school or have attained a G.E.D. or received a passing mark on the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE)
- 3.) Register or be currently enrolled at an accredited institution of public higher education in California

The student must:

- File or plan to file an affidavit as required by individual institutions, stating that he/she will apply for legal residency as soon as possible
- Not hold a valid non-immigrant visa (F, J, H, L, A, E, etc.)

**The information the student shares with colleges/universities is confidential and protected under federal and state laws.*



AB 540 Affidavit

- Affidavit must be filled and send to the college or university by their set deadlines.
- You can find document online via Google or through the colleges/universities



California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request

For Eligible California High School Graduates

Note: This form is accepted by all California Community Colleges and all Universities in both the University of California and California State University systems.

Complete and sign this form to request an exemption from Nonresident Tuition. You must submit any documentation required by the College or University (for example, proof of high school attendance in California). Contact the California Community College, University of California or California State University campus where you intend to enroll (or are enrolled) for instructions on documentation, additional procedures and applicable deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY:

I, the undersigned, am applying for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption for eligible California high school graduates at (specify the college or university) _____ and I declare the following:

Check YES or NO boxes:

Yes No I have graduated from a California high school or have attained the equivalent thereof, such as a High School Equivalency Certificate, issued by the California State GED Office or a Certificate of Proficiency, resulting from the California High School Proficiency Examination.

Yes No I have attended high school in California for three or more years.

Provide information on all school(s) you attended in grades 9-12:

School	City	State	Dates:	
			From - Month/Year	To - Month/Year

Documentation of high school attendance and graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, The California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

Check the box that applies to you — check only one box:

I am a nonimmigrant alien as defined by federal law, (Nonimmigrant aliens have been admitted to the United States temporarily and include, but are not limited to, a foreign student (persons holding F visas) and exchange visitors (persons holding J visas)).

OR

I am NOT a nonimmigrant alien [U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or an alien without lawful immigration status, should check this box].

AFFIDAVIT:

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I hereby declare that, if I am an alien without lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus student records)	Campus/Student Identification Number
Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Birthdate
	Email Address (Optional)
	Phone Number (Optional)
Signature	Date

Why is AB540 important?

Tuition Differences

- AB540 allows students to pay in-state tuition rate and the difference is significant:

Higher Education System	In-State Tuition	Out-of-State Tuition
Community Colleges	\$36/unit	about \$200/unit
California State Universities (CSU)	about \$6,489 per year	about \$15,500 per year
Universities of California (UC)	about \$13,200 per year	about \$38,000 per year



Costs are effective for 2011-2012 and do not reflect any changes that may be made in the future or any additional costs incurred to attend college. Contact financial aid office for more information.

Paying for college: CA Dream Act



CHIRLA's CA Dream Act Celebration with Assemblyman Gil Cedillo



CA Dream Act – AB130

- **AB130**: Signed into law July 25, 2011, authorizes AB540 students to apply to for privately funded scholarships given out by a California public college/university.
- **Effective January 1, 2012**
- **Requirements:**
 - Be classified as AB540
 - Scholarships' requirements will be implemented by each campus.



CA Dream Network students at CA Dream Act press conference in Sacramento.



Procedures of how to apply for each scholarship will be released by each school.

CA Dream Act – AB131

- **AB131**: Signed into law October 8, 2011, authorizes AB540 students to apply for state aid:
 - Board of Governor's Fee Waiver
 - Cal Grants
- **Effective January 1, 2013**
- **Requirements:**
 - Be classified as AB540
 - GPA and Income requirements as decided by the California Student Aid Commission



Educators join CA Dream Network & Wise Up students in support of CA Dream Act



Procedures on how to apply are being developed by the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) and will be made public before enactment date.

Other Funding Options

- Private Scholarships (from business, foundations and organizations)
- Personal Fundraisers (i.e. events, parties, selling items, etc...become a business entrepreneur.)
- **Sponsorship Portfolio**
 - Include the following
 - Donation Letter
 - Personal Statement
 - Acceptance Letter (when you have it)
 - Resume
 - Any other document you feel is important
- **Bank Account**
 - You can open one up with about \$25 and two forms of ID
 - Speak with a representative and start saving little by little!



Beyond the CA Dream Act

AB 844 (Lara) – Student Government Body

- Students who serve in student government, regardless of their immigration status, will receive any scholarship, fee waiver, or reimbursement that their college/university may provide for that service.

AB 176 (Lara) – Standardized Test: Valid Identification

- As of January 2012, test sponsors must provide an alternative option of ID method to a student who does not have a government-issued identification to proof his/her identity at standardized test.



CA Dream Network at South Bay Light the Torch event in April 2011

Know Your Rights!

- Admissions cannot be denied on the basis of your status.
- It is not required to show a federal or state identification or social security to get admission into a California college/university
- Not required to show proof of legal residency.
- Learn further about your rights and get involved with CHIRLA!
- Become part of CHIRLA's College Access Program for more assistance with applying to and enrolling in college



Connect with other AB 540 students



CA Dream Network Statewide Retreat

- Groups across the state have been established. Visit www.chirla.org or www.cadreamnetwork.org for more information.
- Speak with Professors from Chicano Studies and Ethnic Studies Department.
- Speak with student support programs on college campuses.



DEFEND the CA Dream Act!



CHIRLA @ State Capitol meeting with Gov. Brown's office for AB 131.
October 5, 2011

The Facts

- The CA Dream Act would only benefit 1% of the student body population in CA.
- 70% of people that qualify for in state tuition under AB 540 are citizens or legal immigrants, these are the same students that would benefit under the CA Dream Act.
- Our state's and our nation's economy will be stronger with a well-educated and highly skilled workforce



Students with Assemblyman Gil Cedillo after
the passage of the CA Dream Act.
October 2011

Host a Presentation/Teach-In's



- Host a CA Dream Act presentation/teach-in with students, teacher, counselors, and/or parents to spread awareness about the CA Dream Act.
- Post up information about AB540, CA Dream Act, and other funding sources for students to access.

Strategizing at CA Dream Network Retreat @ UC Riverside

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