## UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCES: IN-STATE TUITION VS. CA DREAM ACT VS. DACA

**Policy**
- AB 540, as amended by SB 68, SB 1141 & AB 2000
- AB 130
- AB 131
- Executive Memorandum

**What It Does**
- AB 540 exempts more students from out-of-state tuition fees
- Makes students eligible to apply for financial aid under the CA Dream Act
- Opens certain scholarships administered by public institutions to AB 540 students
- Opens state-funded grants (including Cal grants, State grants, UC Grants & the CA College Promise Grant) and state programs (EOP & EOPS) to AB 540 students
- Allows individuals to receive:
  - Employment authorization card and valid Social Security Number
  - Temporary Relief from Deportation/Removal

**What It Does Not Do**
- Does not change their state residency status.
- Does not include eligibility for federal grants or funds
- Should not be confused with the federal Dream Act
- Does not provide a path to lawful permanent residence, or citizenship
- Does not give eligibility for federal financial aid awarded through FAFSA

**Who Can Apply**
- Undocumented & DACAmented individuals, T and U visa holders, US citizens, & lawfully present immigrants that meet eligibility criteria.
  - NOTE: Students with non-immigrant status (other than T or U visas) are not eligible under this pathway.
- AB 540 eligible individuals who are undocumented, DACAmented individuals, T and U Visa holders, U.S. citizens, and lawfully present immigrants who meet eligibility criteria.
  - NOTE: Students with non-immigrant status (other than T or U visas) are not eligible under this pathway
- Currently, only individuals who had DACA in the past may submit a DACA renewal application.
  - NOTE: People should speak with a legal services provider if they have questions about their specific situation.

**Eligibility Requirements**
- **Student must complete both A & B**
  - **Part A:** Attend three years full-time or the part-time equivalent credits at a CA high school, adult school, Community College (credit or noncredit), or any combination of the above
    - **OR** Three years of high school coursework and three years of total attendance in a CA elementary school or secondary school
    - **OR** any combination of the two.
  - **Part B:** Graduate from a CA high school; obtain a certificate of completion, GED, Hi-Set or TASC in CA; or attain an Associate’s degree from a CCC or fulfill minimum transfer requirements for UC or CSU
- **Student must meet:**
  - AB 540 eligibility
  - Individual scholarship requirements
- **Student must meet:**
  - AB 540 eligibility
  - Priority filing deadline
  - Income guidelines
  - GPA & other Cal grant eligibility
  - Program requirements for EOP or EOP&S

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*Immigrants Rising* helps you make decisions based on your potential, not your perceived limits. Visit our website so you can see what’s possible: [immigrantsrising.org](http://immigrantsrising.org). For inquiries regarding this resource, please contact Nancy Jodaitis, Director of Higher Education, at nancy@immigrantsrising.org.