



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Michigan's State Board of Education

Statement on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program

As education leaders in Michigan, the State Board of Education works to provide all Michigan children a free public education, as required by federal law.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has ensured that nearly 800,000 children of immigrants in our nation, many of whom live in Michigan and have no recollection of any country other than the United States, can safely attend school, earn degrees, be employed and pay taxes, and contribute to this state and nation.

Michigan law requires that all children attend school until they're 18, regardless of their status. Our state has struggled more than most through the Great Recession; education funding levels have only recently started to recover and increase. State law requires that we invest scarce school funding in students who were brought here by their parents without their knowledge or permission as children.

With the recent repeal of DACA, many school children now are living with the daily fear of being torn from their families and sent to a country they do not know. Under current federal law, these young people soon will leave our country without having contributed back to our economy and society as adults despite the state's investment in them. They will not live here, work or pay taxes, nor vote in a country they've learned so much about and passionately wish to call home. This dilemma and the societal costs of leaving it unresolved are a significant burden not just to the Dreamers themselves, but also to a nation that has thrived through immigration.

We echo the September 5, 2017 statement by Governor Rick Snyder, who said: "We are the best when we are a diverse Michigan – one that is made up of people whose stories and journeys are not identical. One path to success and prosperity looks different than the next, which should be celebrated and encouraged. Many are working toward success under the existing DACA, and for the certainty of their future, Congress should act quickly to authorize and clarify their status. In Michigan, we will continue to honor everyone's journey who has become part of our family of 10 million people, and remain the most welcoming state in the nation for immigrants and dreamers seeking prosperity, a home and a community that is accepting of their family and their desire to succeed in America."

The State Board of Education now calls on the U.S. Congress to quickly implement thoughtful and comprehensive immigration reform to meet our nation's best interests for the future, including a permanent and secure resolution that respects and addresses the unique circumstances of DACA students.

Adopted September 12, 2017

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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