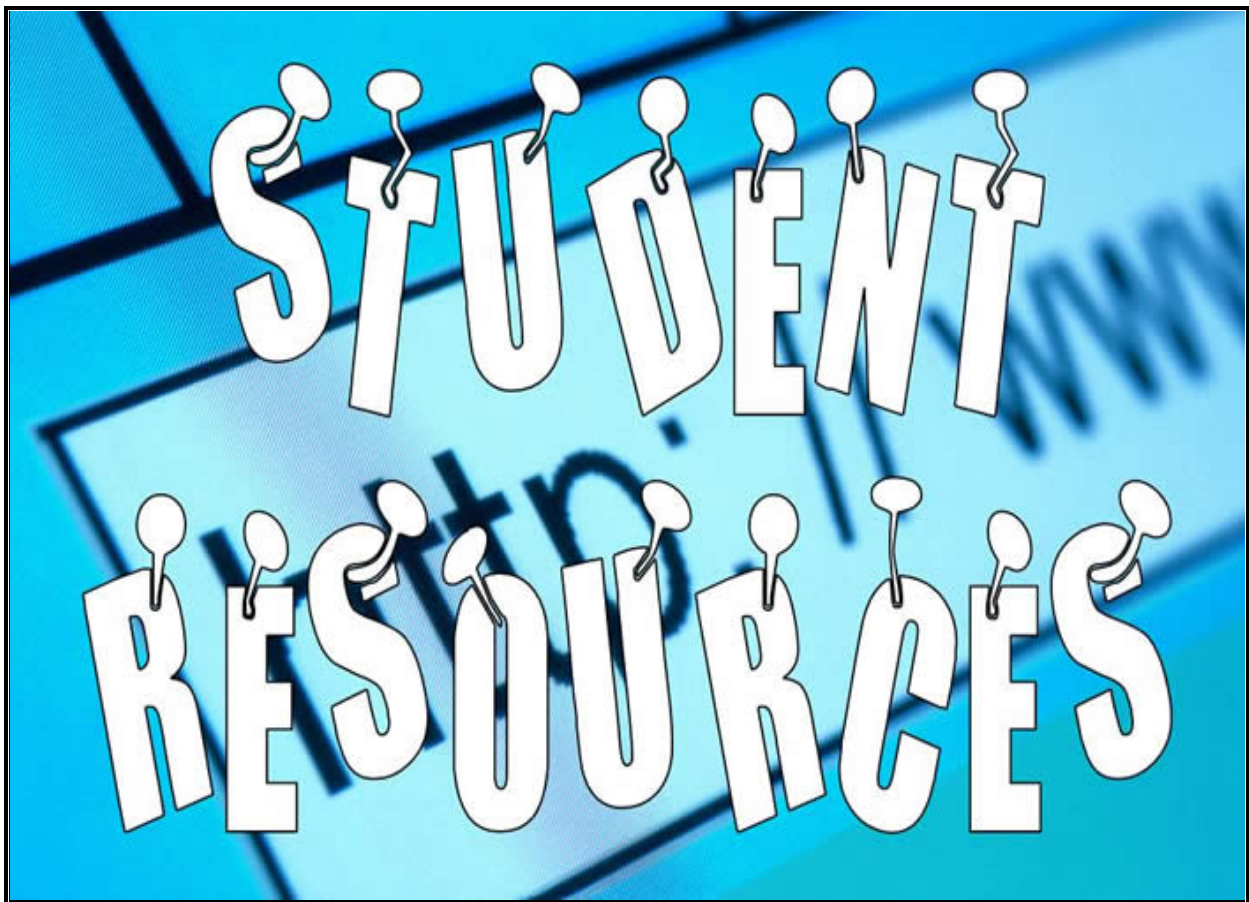


HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCE GUIDE FOR ELL STUDENTS



Bilingual and ESL Education

108 N. Clinton Ave

Trenton, NJ 08609

September 2015

Table of Contents

	Pages
Introduction -----	3
High School Graduation Requirements: Credits -----	4
• Course Planning Worksheet	
Community Resources -----	6
Public NJ Universities and Colleges -----	9
Paying for your Education -----	18
• States: Undocumented Students Pay in State Tuition	
• Q/A Referring to College Tuition	
• Undocumented Students and the “Dream Act”	
• Scholarships/Resources	
High School Transcript -----	24
• Why is it important?	
• What do College Admission Counselors examine on your transcript?	
• Important questions to ask your High School Counselor	
• Quick Tips	
References -----	26
Appendix	
1- Graduation Requirement Class 2016, 2017, 2018	
(Letter from acting commissioner David C. Hespe)	

Introduction

This handbook has been created for current English Language Learners (ELLs) and their families. The United States' school system is different from school systems in many other countries, and we want to help you understand what happens leading up to and following high school graduation. High school is a very important time, both for students who want to go to college and for those who are looking to get ready for the future workforce. This handbook includes information about resources available in school and community, high school graduation requirements, a list of colleges and university in NJ, options for paying for college, scholarships available and much more.

It is important to remember that being multilingual is something to celebrate; colleges and employers are looking for candidates who can communicate and perform in a global setting. We encourage you to be proactive about your future, and to prepare and think beyond high school graduation. We want you to be successful and that is why we created this handbook. Be sure to refer back to this handbook whenever needed and never hesitate to reach out to your guidance counselor and teachers as they very much want to see you reach your goals. It is our hope that this handbook helps students achieve their dreams of a successful career.

High School Graduation Requirements: Credits

*GRADUATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS (120 CREDITS)
ENGLISH – 20 CREDITS REQUIRED
English Language Arts I (<i>Literature I</i>)
English Language Arts II (<i>Literature II</i>)
English Language Arts III (<i>American Literature</i>)
English Language Arts IV (<i>World Literature</i>)
MATHEMATICS – 15 CREDITS REQUIRED
Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
SCIENCE – 15 CREDITS REQUIRED
Biology
Lab Science I
Lab Science II
SOCIAL STUDIES – 15 CREDITS REQUIRED
World History
US History I
US History II
FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, BUSINESS, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LITERACY – 2.5 CREDITS REQUIRED
Financial Literacy
WORLD LANGUAGE – 5 CREDITS REQUIRED
World Language I (French, Spanish, etc.)
HEALTH, SAFETY & PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 20 CREDITS REQUIRED
9th Grade PE I/ Health I
10th Grade PE II/ Health II
11th Grade PE III/ Health III (Driver’s Education)
12th Grade PE IV/ Health IV
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS – 5 CREDITS REQUIRED
VPA Class
21st CENTURY LIFE & CAREERS, OR CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION – 5 CREDITS
21 st Century Life and Careers
ELECTIVES – 17.5 CREDITS REQUIRED
Elective I
Elective II
Elective III
Elective IV
*120 REQUIRED TOTAL CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION
<i>*School Districts may establish course and/or credit requirements that exceed the State minimums.</i>

Course Planning Worksheet

9th Grade	Credits Earned	10th Grade	Credits Earned	11th Grade	Credits Earned	12th Grade	Credits Earned
English I		English II		English III		English IV	
Algebra I		Geometry		Algebra II		Elective	
Science*		Science*		Science*		Elective	
World History		U.S. History 1		U.S. History 2		Elective	
PE & Health		PE & Health		PE & Health		PE & Health	
World Language		Elective		Elective		Elective	
Visual and Performing Arts		Visual and Performing Arts		Financial Literacy **		Elective	
21st Century Life & Careers or Career Technical Education		21st Century Life & Careers or Career Technical Education		21st Century Life & Careers or Career Technical Education		21st Century Life & Careers or Career Technical Education	
Elective		Elective		Elective		Elective	
Total Credit		Total Credit		Total Credit		Total Credit	

* Science: 15 Credits of inquiry-based lab science courses, including Biology, which is mandatory

**Financial Literacy - 2.5 Credits (effective with the 2013-2014 Freshmen)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- One of the following 3 must be met:
 - Pass the Grade 9, 10, or 11 PARCC English Language Arts, Algebra I or Geometry or Algebra II Assessments
 - Achieve passing score on a substitute competency test Language Arts and Math
 - Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal in Language Arts and Math
- Successfully complete a minimum of 120 credits beginning in grade 9 and concluding in grade 12.
- Must not miss more than **9 unexcused days** from a semester course in order to complete the course and receive credit (Policy #5200; Regulation #5200)
- 120 CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE**

GRADE STANDING DETERMINED BY CREDITS EARNED

- 5. To achieve **10th grade** status (sophomore) - **30** credits
- 6. To achieve **11th grade** status (junior) - **60** credits
- 7. To achieve **12th grade** status (senior) - 90 credits or earn enough credits to complete graduation requirements by June of that school year

School and Community Resources

Guidance Counselor

Daylight Twilight

Content Area Teachers

Daylight Twilight

Special Program Services

Coolspeak Staff

Family Preservation Service

Family Preservation Service,
(609) 393-1626 or
email Shirley Bellardo, Program Director,
at Shirley.bellardo@fgccorp.org

Services Provided: Family Guidance Center providing short-term, intensive, in-home family education and crisis intervention services. The goal of the program is to help families in crisis with a child at risk of out-of-home placement.

Mercer County Board of Social Services

200 Woolverton St.
P.O. Box 1450
Trenton, NJ 08650-2099
(609) 989-4320
Toll Free 1-800-564-1595
www.mercercounty.org/mcbss
Services Provided: Medicaid, Food Stamps, & Workfirst NJ Program

Womanspace, Inc.

1212 Stuyvesant Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08618
24 hour hotline: (609) 394-9000
www.womanspace.org

Services Provided: Emergency shelter, transitional housing, and counseling services for victims of domestic violence and victims of sexual assault

The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton

Nassau Presbyterian Church

61 Nassau St.

Princeton, NJ 08542

(609) 921-2135

123 East Hanover St.

Trenton, NJ 08608

(609) 396-9355

www.thecrisisministry.org

Services Provided: Emergency financial assistance, food assistance

Homefront

1880 Princeton Ave.

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

(609) 989-9417

www.homefrontnj.org/

Services Provided: Emergency housing, transitional housing, & food assistance

Community Health Law Project

225 East State St.

Trenton, NJ 08608

(609) 392-5553

www.chlp.org

Services Provided: Legal and advocacy services for people with disabilities. Attorneys represent clients in matters involving social security, food stamps, welfare, housing, child support, & domestic violence

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 North Warren St.

Trenton, NJ 08618

(609) 278-5900

www.henryjainstin.org

Services Provided: Medical care, dental, vision and hearing screenings.

The Smartest Tutor

www.knewton.com/

Personalized learning made easy, smart and free for everyone.

Catholic Charities

200 Mott St
Trenton, NJ 08611

Provide counseling, childcare, jobs, scholarships and tutoring

MECHA Mercer County Hispanic Association

18 E. 6th Ave.
Hamilton, NJ 08619
609-587-8836

MECHA is a private non-profit organization founded in 1985 to establish and ensure that adequate representation and services are provided to meet the needs of the Latino population in Mercer County.

NJ State Colleges and Universities:

Public Research Universities (3)

All Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education

<p><u>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</u> Dr. Robert L. Barchi, President Old Queens 83 Somerset Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1281 (848) 932-7454</p>	<p><u>New Jersey Institute of Technology</u> Dr. Joel Bloom, President 323 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard University Heights Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 596-3000</p>	<p><u>Rowan University</u> Dr. Ali Houshmand, President 201 Mullica Hill Road Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701 (856) 256-4000</p>
<p><u>Rutgers Schools & Colleges</u> Carnegie*: New Brunswick - Research Universities (very high research activity) Newark - Research Universities (high research activity) Camden - Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs)</p>	<p><u>NJIT Schools & Colleges</u> Carnegie*: Research Universities (high research activity)</p>	<p>Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs)</p>

State Colleges and Universities (8)

All Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education

<p><u>The College of New Jersey</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein, President 2000 Pennington Road P.O. Box 7718 Ewing, NJ 08628-0718 (609) 771-1855</p>	<p><u>Ramapo College of New Jersey</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs) Dr. Peter Philip Mercer, President 505 Ramapo Valley Road Mahwah, NJ 07430 (201) 684-7500</p>
<p><u>Kean University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities</p>	<p><u>Stockton University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities</p>

(larger programs) Dr. Dawood Farahi, President 1000 Morris Avenue Union, NJ 07083 (908) 527-2000	(smaller programs) Dr. Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., President 101 Vera King Farris Drive Galloway, NJ 08205-9441 (609) 652-1776
<u>Montclair State University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Susan A. Cole, President 1 Normal Avenue Montclair, NJ 07043 (973) 655-4000	<u>Thomas Edison State College</u> Carnegie*: Baccalaureate Colleges--Arts & Sciences Dr. George A. Pruitt, President 101 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08608-1176 (609) 984-1100 (888) 442-8372 [toll free]
<u>New Jersey City University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Sue Henderson, President 2039 Kennedy Boulevard Jersey City, NJ 07305-1597 (201) 200-2000	<u>William Paterson University</u> of New Jersey Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Kathleen Waldron, President 300 Pompton Road Wayne, NJ 07470 (973) 720-2000

Community Colleges (19) All Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education	
<u>Atlantic Cape Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Rural-serving Large Dr. Peter Mora, President 5100 Black Horse Pike Mays Landing, NJ 08330-2699 (609) 343-4900	<u>Middlesex County College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales, President P.O. Box 3050 2600 Woodbridge Avenue Edison, NJ 08818-3050 (732) 548-6000
<u>Bergen Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus	<u>County College of Morris</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. Edward J. Yaw, President

<p>Dr. B. Kaye Walter, President 400 Paramus Road Paramus, NJ 07652-1595 (201) 447-7100</p>	<p>214 Center Grove Road Randolph, NJ 07869-2086 (973) 328-5000</p>
<p><u>Brookdale Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. Maureen Murphy, President 765 Newman Springs Road Lincroft, NJ 07738 (732) 842-1900</p>	<p><u>Ocean County College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. Jon H. Larson, President 1 College Drive P.O. Box 2001 Toms River, NJ 08754-2001 (732) 255-0400</p>
<p><u>Burlington County College</u> - Main Campus Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Multicampus Dr. David Spang, Interim President 601 Pemberton Browns Mills Road Pemberton, NJ 08068-1599 (609) 894-9311</p> <p>Mt. Laurel Campus 3331 Route 38, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 (856) 222-9311</p> <p>Willingboro Campus Willingboro Town Center 300 Willingboro Parkway, Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 894-9311</p>	<p><u>Passaic County Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. Steven M. Rose, President One College Boulevard Paterson, NJ 07505 (973) 684-6800</p>
<p><u>Camden County College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Multicampus Dr. Raymond Yannuzzi, President P.O. Box 200 Blackwood, NJ 08012 (856) 227-7200</p>	<p><u>Raritan Valley Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus James B. Ventantonio, Interim President P.O. Box 3300 Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 526-1200 Route 28 & Lamington Rd, North Branch, NJ 08876</p>
<p><u>Cumberland County College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Rural-serving Medium</p>	<p><u>Salem Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus</p>

<p>Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegebe, President 3322 College Drive P.O. Box 1500 Vineland, NJ 08362-1500 (856) 691-8600</p>	<p>Mrs. Joan M. Baillie, President 460 Hollywood Avenue Carneys Point, NJ 08069 (856) 299-2100</p>
<p><u>Essex County College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Urban-serving Multicampus Dr. Gale E. Gibson, President 303 University Avenue Newark, NJ 07102-1798 (973) 877-3000</p>	<p><u>Sussex County Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. Paul Mazur, President One College Hill Road Newton, NJ 07860 (973) 300-2100</p>
<p><u>Rowan College at Gloucester County</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Mr. Frederick Keating, President 1400 Tanyard Road Sewell, NJ 08080 (856) 468-5000</p>	<p><u>Union County College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Multicampus Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin, President 1033 Springfield Avenue Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 709-7000</p> <p><u>Elizabeth Campus</u> 12 West Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201</p> <p><u>Plainfield Campus</u> 232 East Second Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060</p> <p><u>Scotch Plains Campus</u> 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076</p>
<p><u>Hudson County Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Urban-serving Single Campus Dr. Glen Gabert, President 70 Sip Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 360-4001</p>	<p><u>Warren County Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Suburban-serving Single Campus Dr. William Austin, President 475 Route 57 West Washington, NJ 07882-4343 (908) 835-9222</p>
<p><u>Mercer County Community College</u> Carnegie*: Associate's--Public Rural-serving Large Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, President 1200 Old Trenton Road West Windsor, NJ 08550-3407 (609) 586-4800</p>	

Independent Four-Year Colleges (15)
All Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education

<p><u>Bloomfield College</u> Carnegie*: Baccalaureate Colleges--Arts & Sciences Mr. Richard A. Levao, President 229 Liberty Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003 (973) 748-9000</p>	<p><u>Monmouth University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Paul R. Brown, President 400 Cedar Avenue West Long Branch, NJ 07764 (732) 571-3400 Monmouth Park Corporate Center 185 Monmouth Parkway West Long Branch, NJ 07764</p>
<p><u>Caldwell University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs) Dr. Nancy H. Blattner, President 9 Ryerson Avenue Caldwell, NJ 07006 (973) 618-3000</p>	<p><u>Pillar College</u> Dr. David Schroeder, President 60 Park Place, Suite 701 Newark , NJ 07012 (973) 803-5000 X1018 (973) 242-3282 [fax] Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education</p>
<p><u>Centenary College</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs) Dr. Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite, President 400 Jefferson Street Hackettstown, NJ 07840 (908) 852-1400</p>	<p><u>Princeton University</u> Carnegie*: Research Universities (very high research activity) Mr. Christopher L. Eisgruber, President One Nassau Hall Princeton, NJ 08544 (609) 258-3000</p>
<p><u>College of Saint Elizabeth</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs) Dr. Helen J. Streubert, President 2 Convent Road Morristown, NJ 07960-6989 (973) 290-4000</p>	<p><u>Rider University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, President 2083 Lawrenceville Road Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 (609) 896-5000</p>

<p><u>Drew University</u> Carnegie*: Baccalaureate Colleges--Arts & Sciences Dr. Vivian Bull, Interim President 36 Madison Avenue Madison, NJ 07940 (973) 408-3000 Also Accredited by Association of Theological Schools</p>	<p><u>Saint Peter's University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Eugene Cornacchia, President 2641 Kennedy Boulevard Jersey City, NJ 07306-5997 (201) 915-9000</p>
<p><u>Fairleigh Dickinson University - Metropolitan Campus</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Mr. Sheldon Drucker, President 1000 River Road Teaneck, NJ 07666 (201) 692-2000</p>	<p><u>Seton Hall University</u> Carnegie*: Doctoral/Research Universities Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban, President 400 South Orange Avenue South Orange, NJ 07079 (973) 761-9000 Also Accredited by Association of Theological Schools</p>
<p><u>Fairleigh Dickinson University</u> - College at Florham 285 Madison Avenue Madison, NJ 07940 (973) 443-8500</p>	<p><u>Seton Hall University Law School</u> Carnegie*: Schools of law One Newark Center Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 642-8500</p>
<p><u>Felician College</u> Carnegie*: Baccalaureate Colleges--Diverse Fields Dr. Anne Prisco, President 262 South Main Street Lodi, NJ 07644 (201) 559-6000</p>	<p><u>Stevens Institute of Technology</u> Carnegie*: Research Universities (high research activity) Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President 1 Castle Point Terrace Castle Point on Hudson Hoboken, NJ 07030 (201) 216-5000</p>
<p><u>Georgian Court University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs) Sister Rosemary Jeffries, RSM, Ph.D., President 900 Lakewood Avenue Lakewood, NJ 08701-2697 (732) 364-2200</p>	

Proprietary Institutions With Degree-Granting Authority (11)
Accreditation listed at the end of each institution's listing

<p><u>Berkeley College</u> Carnegie*: Special Focus Institutions--Schools of business and management Dr. Dario Cortes, President 44 Rifle Camp Road West Paterson, NJ 07424-0440 (973) 278-5400 Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education</p>	<p><u>ITT Technical Institute</u> Carnegie*: Private - For Profit Ms. Cathlene Schwartzbeck, Director Paul Warner, Dean 2 Greentree Center 9000 Lincoln Drive E, Suite 100 Marlton, NJ 08053 (856) 396-3500 (877) 209-5410 [toll free] Accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)</p>
<p><u>Best Care Training Institute</u> Dr. Theodore Fayette, President 68 South Harrison Street East Orange, NJ 07018 (973) 673 3900 Seeking Accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)</p>	<p><u>Jersey College</u> Steven B. Litvack, Esq., President Main Campus 546 U.S. 46 Teterboro, NJ 07608 (201) 489-5836 Ewing Campus 1001 Spruce Street, Suite 7 Ewing, NJ 08638 (609) 777-9035 Accredited by Council on Occupational Education Approved offering: AAS Nursing</p>
<p><u>Chamberlain College of Nursing</u> Dr. Robin Goodrich, Dean 630 U.S. Highway One North Brunswick, NJ 08902-3362 (732) 875-1300. Accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools</p>	<p><u>Strayer University</u> Carnegie*: Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs) Dr. Michael Plater, Interim President <u>Cherry Hill Campus</u> Pamela Woods, Campus Director 2201 Route 38, Suite 100 Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 (856) 482-4200 <u>Willingboro Campus</u> Hannah Richardson, Campus Director 300 Willingboro Parkway Willingboro Town Center, Suite 125 Willingboro, NJ 08046 (609) 835-6001</p>

	<p>Lawrenceville Campus Kevin Catafalmo, Campus Director 3150 Brunswick Pike Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 (609) 406-7601</p> <p>Piscataway Campus Isaac Walters, Campus Director 242 Old New Brunswick Road, Suite 220 Piscataway, NJ 08854 (732) 743-3801 Accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education</p>
<p>DeVry University Carnegie*: Special Focus Institutions--Other technology-related schools Dr. Chris Grevesen, President</p> <p>Cherry Hill Center 921 Haddonfield Road Suite D Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002 (856) 317-4400</p> <p>North Brunswick Campus 630 US Highway One North Brunswick, NJ 08902-3362 (732) 729-3532 Toll Free: 800-333-3879</p> <p>Paramus Center 35 Plaza, 81 East State Route 4, Suite 102 Paramus, NJ 07652 (201) 556-2840 Accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools</p>	<p>University of Northern New Jersey Carnegie*: Schools of Business & Management Dr. Steven Brunetti (President) 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 135, Cranford, NJ 07016 908-603-6300 Accredited by Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)</p>
<p>Eastern International College Carnegie*: (Not classified) Mr. William C. Ehrhardt, President 684 Newark Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 216-9901</p>	<p>University of Phoenix, Jersey City Campus Carnegie*: Schools of Business & Management Mr. Gary Williams, Campus Director 100 Pavonia Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07310 (201) 610-1408 Accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools</p>

Belleville Campus

251 Washington Avenue
Belleville, NJ 07109
(973) 751-9051
Accredited by Accrediting Commission on Career
Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT)

Eastwick College

Carnegie*: (Not classified)
Mr. Thomas M. Eastwick. President
10 South Franklin Turnpike
Ramsey, NJ 07446
(201) 327-8877

Hackensack Campus

Ruth Zayas, Campus Director
250 Moore Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 488-9400

Nutley Campus

Bhavna Tailor, Campus Director
103 Park Avenue
Nutley, NJ 07110
(973) 661-0600

Accredited by the Accrediting Council for
Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

Paying for your Education:

Allow In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students

Currently, at least 18 states have provisions allowing in-state tuition rates for undocumented students. Sixteen states provide these provisions through state legislation:

- California- enacted legislation in 2001
 - Colorado - enacted legislation in 2013
 - Connecticut- enacted legislation in 2011
 - Florida - enacted legislation in 2014
 - Illinois - enacted legislation in 2003-2004
 - Kansas - enacted legislation in 2003-2004
 - Maryland - enacted legislation in 2011
 - Minnesota - enacted legislation in 2013
 - Nebraska- enacted legislation in 2005-2006
 - New Mexico- enacted legislation in 2005-2006
 - New Jersey- enacted legislation in 2013
 - New York- enacted legislation in 2002
 - Oregon - enacted legislation in 2013
 - Texas- enacted legislation in 2001
 - Utah- enacted legislation in 2002
 - Washington- enacted legislation in 2003-2004
- Two states—Oklahoma and Rhode Island— allow in-state tuition rates to undocumented students through Board of Regents decisions.

The states that have passed laws to allow undocumented students to receive in-state tuition delineate requirements for eligibility:

- Students must live in state
- Attend high school for a specified period (1-4 years)
- Graduate or receive their GED
- Students must be accepted to a public college or university
- Must sign an affidavit stating their intention to file for legal immigration status

5 states—currently allow undocumented students to receive state financial aid:

- California,
- Minnesota,
- New Mexico,
- Texas and
- Washington

Private Colleges and Universities

Almost all private colleges and universities classify undocumented students as international students and consider their financial situation in determining admissions. In this process, undocumented students compete with students from every country in the world for a handful of enrollment slots. For these schools, an undocumented student's ability to fund their entire four years of college is considered in admissions decisions. The cost of attending a private college for four years ranges from \$80,000 - \$200,000.

Questions and Answers about Paying for College for Undocumented Students

If you're an undocumented student, you probably have questions about college costs. Here are answers to some common questions undocumented students have about paying for college.

1. Do colleges offer financial aid or scholarships to undocumented students?

Yes, some do. Private colleges often have special funds available. To apply for this financial aid, you may have to fill out the Financial Aid Profile or the college's own forms. Check with the **admission or financial aid office** at each college you are interested in to find out its requirements.

2. Am I eligible for scholarships?

Yes, you just need to find ones that you qualify for. Start by talking to your high school counselor and checking out the Scholarship Resource page included in this document.

There are many scholarship opportunities, and some private scholarship organizations allow undocumented students to apply. There are even a few scholarships specifically meant for undocumented students. Be sure to look into local scholarships offered by community groups, such as the Kiwanis, that might be open to all students living in the local community.

3. Can I get federal financial aid?

No. You can't get federal financial aid unless you're a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen. This means you should not fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

4. Can I get a Pell Grant?

No. Pell Grants are a type of federal financial aid.

5. Can I get financial aid from my state?

It depends on where you live. Some states offer financial aid to undocumented students and some don't. Unfortunately, New Jersey presently does not offer financial aid to undocumented students. The rules often change, so be sure to get the latest information about policies in NJ.

6. Do I pay the in-state or out-of-state rate at a public college in my home state?

New Jersey allows undocumented students to pay in state tuition. Other states may treat you as an out-of-state or international student and require you to pay the higher rate.

7. How else can I cut down on costs?

You may be able to save money on tuition by earning college credit before starting college. Check with the colleges you're considering to see if they award credit for qualifying scores on AP exams

Undocumented Students and the Dream Act

Each year, approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school, many at the top of their classes, but cannot go to college, join the military, work, or otherwise pursue their dreams. They belong to the 1.5 generation, first generation immigrants brought to the United States at a young age who were largely raised in this country and, therefore share much in common with second-generation Americans. These students are culturally American, growing up here and often having little attachment to their country of birth. They tend to be bicultural and fluent in English. Many don't even know that they are undocumented immigrants until they apply for a driver's license or college, and then learn they lack Social Security numbers and other necessary legal documents. They have been in this country almost their entire lives and attended most of their K-12 education here. Many are honor roll students, athletes, class presidents, valedictorians, and aspiring teachers, engineers, and doctors. Yet, because of their immigration status, their day-to-day lives are severely restricted and their futures are uncertain. Moreover, at any time, these young men and women can be, and sometimes are, deported to countries they barely know. They have high aspirations, yet live on the margins. What happens to them is a question troubled with political and economic significance.

Because of the barriers to their continued education and their exclusion from the legal workforce, many undocumented students are discouraged from applying to college. It is estimated that only between 5 and 10 percent of undocumented high-school graduates go to college—not because they don't want to, but because they cannot afford it or because some schools will not allow them to enroll. Even worse, there is often little incentive for them to finish high school, leading to high drop-out rates and the potential for them to become involved in gangs and illegal activities.

The **DREAM Act** (acronym for **D**evelopment, **R**elief, and **E**ducation for **A**lien **M**inors) is an American legislative proposal for a multi-phase process for undocumented immigrants in the United States that would first grant conditional residency and upon meeting further qualifications, permanent residency.

The bill was first introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2001, S. 1291 by Dick Durbin and Orrin Hatch, and has since been reintroduced several times but has failed to pass.

The “**DREAM Act**,” would provide a pathway to legal status for the thousands of undocumented students who graduate from high school each year. To date, the DREAM Act has 32 co-sponsors in the Senate and 2 in the House.

Organizations and individuals from across the country—from California to Kentucky, Oklahoma to New York—have joined together to support the DREAM Act. Thousands of undocumented students and their supportive classmates and teachers have met with their members of Congress, sent letters, held rallies, and staged hunger strikes and other activities in pursuit of making the DREAM Act a reality. Following the detention of an undocumented Harvard student in June, 2010, Harvard President Drew Faust stated that the DREAM Act serves as a “lifeline to these students who are already working hard in our middle and high schools and living in our communities by granting them the temporary legal status that would allow them to pursue postsecondary education.”

Research has shown that the DREAM Act would be a boon to the economy and the U.S. workforce. Moreover, as the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) has pointed out, “The DREAM Act would create an unprecedented opportunity for many young people to step onto a path to permanent legal status, a path that would require them to demonstrate either a significant investment in their human capital or service to the United States through membership in the armed forces.”

What Would the DREAM Act Do?

The DREAM Act addresses the dilemma of young undocumented immigrants growing up in the United States who wish to go to college and obtain lawful employment. The bill allows current, former, and future undocumented high-school graduates and GED recipients a pathway to U.S. citizenship through college or the armed services. The conditions are the following:

- An undocumented high-school graduate or GED recipient would be eligible to adjust to **conditional lawful permanent resident (LPR) status** if they have been physically present in the United States for at least **five years** and were **younger than 16** when they first entered the country.
- This LPR status would be granted on a conditional basis and **valid for six years**, during which time the student would be allowed to **work, go to school, or join the military**.
- The conditional status would be removed and the person granted LPR status after six years once the student has either **completed two years in a program for a bachelor’s degree or higher degree or has served in the uniformed services for at least two years** and, if discharged, has received an honorable discharge.
- DREAM Act students **would not be eligible for federal education grants**. Students would, however, be eligible for federal work study and student loans, and individual states would not be restricted from providing financial aid to the students.

Who Would Benefit from the DREAM Act?

There are an estimated **2.1 million** undocumented children and young adults in the United States who might be eligible for legal status under the DREAM Act. For many of these young people, the United States is the only home they know and English is their first language. Each year, tens of thousands of them graduate from primary or secondary school, often at the top of their classes. They have the potential to be future doctors, nurses, teachers, and entrepreneurs, but they experience unique hurdles to achieving success in this country. Through no fault of their own, their lack of status may prevent them from attending college or working legally. The DREAM Act would provide an opportunity for them to live up to their full potential and make greater contributions to the U.S. economy and society.

- **114,000 potential beneficiaries** with at least an associate's degree would be immediately eligible for conditional LPR status.
- **612,000 potential beneficiaries** would be immediately eligible for conditional LPR status because they already have a high-school diploma or GED (and would have the incentive to complete two years of college or two years of military service to be eligible for permanent status).
- **934,000 children under 18** could be eligible for conditional LPR status in the future, which would provide them with incentives to finish high school and pursue a post-secondary education or join the military.
- **489,000 potential beneficiaries** could be eligible for conditional LPR status in the future if they obtain a GED.
- DREAM Act-eligible immigrants live in all 50 states, but some states have far more potential beneficiaries than others. The top ten states with the largest number of potential DREAM Act beneficiaries are California (26% of the national total), Texas (12%), Florida (9%), New York (7%), Arizona (5%), Illinois (4%), New Jersey (4%), Georgia (3%), North Carolina (2%), and Colorado (2%). All other states combined are home to one-quarter of potential DREAM Act beneficiaries.

What are the Economic Benefits of the DREAM Act?

- **The DREAM Act would give beneficiaries access to greater educational opportunities and better jobs, which in turn means more taxable income:** A 2010 **study** by the UCLA North American Integration and Development Center estimates that the total earnings of DREAM Act beneficiaries over the course of their working lives would be between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion. A 2008 **study** from Arizona State University found that an individual with a bachelor's degree earns approximately \$750,000 more over the course of his or her lifetime than an individual with only a high-school diploma. As of 2006, workers without a high-school diploma earned \$419 per week and had an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent. Workers with a bachelor's degree earned \$962 per week and had an unemployment rate of 2.3 percent, while workers with a doctoral degree earned \$1,441 per week and had an unemployment rate of 1.4 percent. A study by the College Board found that over the course of their working lives, the average college graduate earns in excess of 60 percent more than a high-school graduate, and workers with advanced degrees earn two to three times as much as high-school graduates. The U.S. Department of Labor found that the wages of immigrants in the 1986 legalization increased 15 percent over five years, and that the immigrants move on to "significantly better jobs."

- **The DREAM Act would allow legalized immigrants to invest in the U.S. economy:** Dr. Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda of the University of California, Los Angeles, and others have studied the impact of legalization and found important long-term improvements among previously undocumented immigrants. Specifically, removing the uncertainty of undocumented status allows legalized immigrants to earn higher wages and move into higher-paying occupations, and also encourages them to invest more in their own education, open bank accounts, buy homes, and start businesses.
- **The DREAM Act would save taxpayers money:** A RAND study from 1999 shows that raising the college graduation rate of Hispanics to that of non-Hispanic whites would increase spending on public education by 10 percent nationwide, but the **costs would be more than offset by savings in public health and benefits, as well as increased tax revenues resulting from higher incomes.** For example, a 30-year-old Mexican immigrant woman with a college degree will pay \$5,300 more in taxes and use \$3,900 less in government expenses each year compared to a high-school dropout with similar characteristics.
- **The DREAM Act would likely reduce the drop-out rate** for immigrant students by creating a strong incentive for undocumented students to remain in school until graduation. Currently, most undocumented children are forced to work illegally in the cash economy as domestic servants, day laborers, and sweatshop factory workers. The DREAM Act would make these children lawfully eligible to work, and help fill positions like teachers, nurses, and service employees—positions that have long been in demand in the United States.
- **The DREAM Act keeps talented students in the United States:** Letting the talent of DREAM Act students go to waste “**imposes economic and emotional costs on undocumented students and on U.S. society as a whole.**” The DREAM Act would allow our most talented students to remain in the country.

Scholarship Resources:

- ◆ Fast Web: www.fastweb.com
- ◆ Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund: www.maldef.org
- ◆ Get Ready for College: www.getreadyforcollege.org/gPg.cfm?pageID=1586
- ◆ Latino College Dollars: www.latinocollegedollars.org
- ◆ Scholarships for Hispanics: www.scholarshipsforhispanics.org
- ◆ Genesco Migrant Center: www.migrant.net
- ◆ Mexican Scholarship Fund: <http://mexicanscholarshipfund.org/>
- ◆ La Plaza Scholarship and Financial Aid Guide: (English PDF) (Spanish PDF)
- ◆ SADCOS Scholarship Program: <http://sadco.org/sadco-scholarship-program>
- ◆ Repository of Resources for Undocumented Students (.pdf/1MB)
- ◆ Dream Activist’s DACA Scholarship
- ◆ Paying for College on www.ab540.com

High School Transcript: Why is it important?

As you're preparing for college, you'll learn that there are many factors that help college admissions staff learn more about you. Your application, college essay, SAT scores and GPA show these counselors what your abilities, interests and skills are so they can decide if you're a good fit for the college.

Your high school transcript, which shows your high school grades, classes and GPA, will most likely be the first piece of information a college admissions officer will review. This complete record of your coursework, grades and credits provides concrete evidence of whether you're prepared to attend a particular college or not.

When planning for college, you must keep this in mind as you take classes, study and later get grades - the work you put into it will directly impact your ability to get into colleges. Your transcription will show admissions counselors how hard you work, what areas you excel in and which major or type of degree might be best for you. Obviously this is in conjunction with the other elements of your application, but now you can see how important a transcript is in the application process.

What College Admissions Counselors Examine on Your Transcript

1. Your grade point average (GPA) and class rank: Be aware that some schools only consider core classes (like English, math, science and social studies) when calculating your GPA, while others look at grades for all of your classes. A grade point average (GPA) is a calculated average of the letter grades you earn in school following a 0 to 4.0 or 5.0 scale. Every semester, you'll receive a GPA based on the grades you earned in all of your classes during that semester. Throughout high school, you'll also maintain a cumulative GPA, which is an ongoing average of all your semester beginning with freshman year.

2. The types of classes you took in high school: The variety and difficulty of classes will help them see what type of student you are; AP classes will show that you are serious about planning for college, while a course load of non-academic classes will not impress them very much.

3. A consistent GPA: When school search for new students, they want to see that you are willing to work hard, you enjoy challenging yourself and learning new things and you can maintain a high grade point average. For those who had a rocky start, keep at it! Schools also like to see GPA improvement. Plus, you can speak to what changed and why you want to go to college to help them understand the discrepancy among your grades.

4. The number of pass/fail classes you took: Earning a passing grade in these classes is often considered a D by colleges. Avoid pass/fail classes so they don't impact your cumulative GPA.

5. Your behavior record, if included: The only time your behavior record displays on your transcript is when there were any negative reports, such as suspensions or other disciplinary actions.

Important questions to ask your counselor:

To determine how you're being evaluated for college programs and degrees, ask your guidance counselor about your transcript with the following questions:

1. How often are students evaluated: every quarter, trimester or semester?
2. Does the transcript only include courses I've completed, or are dropped/incomplete courses also on the record?
3. How does the school rank students?
4. Is my GPA weighted, with AP classes worth more? (This means GPAs higher than 4.0 are possible, which affects where your score falls in the rankings.)
5. Does the transcript include a profile with records like my attendance, community service, a list of honors, and AP classes, etc.?
6. Does my transcript include a school profile? This is a demographic record of the student population, AP classes offered and other pertinent information that is usually required by college admissions officers.

Add an Extracurricular Resume to Your High School Transcript

To supplement your academic transcript, you can add an extracurricular resume, listing all of your after school activities, along with the years in which you participated. Include sections for school activities, awards and honors (both academic and extracurricular), community service, work experience and alumni affiliation.

Quick Tips

As you prepare your college admissions applications, request a copy of your high school transcript from your high school counselor or school registrar so you can review it for accuracy.

Understand the difference between your cumulative GPA and your GPA for each grading period, and keep track of how you're doing. Colleges will look at your individual GPA for each grading period but are most concerned with your cumulative GPA for all semesters of high school.

Check average GPAs at schools you want to attend. You may find a college you love, but if your transcript isn't strong enough, you might not be a desired candidate.

References

Coolspeak, info@coolspeak.net, Improving Education, Inspiring Learning, Infusing Cool

www.nj.gov/higheducation/colleges/schools.sector.shtml

Trenton School District Student Catalog, Trenton, NJ

Repository Research for Undocumented Students, CollegeBoard

American Immigration Council, 1331 G St. NW Washington, DC

