FAMILY GUIDE FOR DREAMERS
IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

RGV FOCUS
a collaboration with Educate Texas
Going to college is possible for everyone! Each year, approximately 65,000 undocumented students—DREAMers—graduate high school. Texas supports its DREAMers through financial aid to ensure their college dreams come true.

YES YOU CAN!

Through Texas House Bill 1403 and Senate Bill 1528 certain undocumented students are considered Texas residents. This qualifies these students to pay in-state tuition at public colleges and universities and also makes these students eligible for state financial aid. The student must meet the following four requirements:

1. Graduate from a public or private high school, or receive a GED, in Texas;

2. Live in Texas for at least 3 years leading up to high school graduation or receiving a GED;

3. Live in Texas for the 12 months leading up to the semester the student is enrolling in college;

4. Provide the institution of higher education an affidavit stating the student will file an application to become a U.S. permanent resident as soon as he/she is eligible to do so.

CHECKLIST ✓

There are several steps you’ll need to follow to make your college dreams come true. These processes can be complex. We encourage DREAMers and their parents to seek the advice and guidance of their high school counselor during the following steps.

1. Submit your college application via the Apply Texas website www.applytexas.org.

2. Submit a notarized Affidavit of Intent to Become a Permanent Resident at each of the colleges and universities where you’re applying. This document states that you’ll file an application to become a U.S. permanent resident as soon as you are eligible to do so.


4. Submit the Confirmation of Eligibility Texas Educational Opportunity (TEOG) and Texas Grant available from your high school counselor’s office, in your college online portal, or at colleges’ Financial Aid Offices.

5. Submit income and/or tax documentation.
   
a. If your family filed taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), then you’ll need to include your IRS tax transcript with your TASFA application. You can request a transcript online at https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript.

b. If your family did not file taxes then you will need to report your family income using the Income Information for Non-Tax Filers Form available at the college and university Financial Aid Offices. Please note that this form must be notarized.

6. If you are a male student you must also register for the Selective Service available at www.sss.gov/Home/Registration. You are required to submit proof of registration to the Financial Aid Office along with your TASFA application.
DON’T FEAR!

Thanks to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) school personnel does not have the right to disclose personal student information (including immigration status). For this reason, DREAMers should not hesitate to express their desire to attend college. Remember to ask for the help and advice of your high school counselor during the college and financial aid application processes.

ABOUT RGV FOCUS

RGV FOCUS is a collective impact initiative in the Rio Grande Valley—a group of leaders from school districts, higher education institutions, community-based organizations and the workforce partnering to improve student lives from cradle-to-career. RGV FOCUS was launched in 2012 to transform college readiness, access, and success across Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy counties. The work to date is driven by the following vision:

All RGV learners will achieve a degree or credential that leads to a meaningful career.

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