



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

September 20, 2012

Dear School District Leaders:

We write to you regarding recent changes in federal immigration rules and to encourage you to help us better reach young New Yorkers who could be positively impacted by the changes. On June 15, 2012 the federal government announced that certain young people who were brought to this country as children would be eligible for Deferred Action, which is a relief from removal (deportation) from the country or from being placed in removal proceedings. Individuals receiving Deferred Action will be eligible for employment authorization (work permits).

Estimates suggest that between 40,000 and 80,000 young people in New York State may be eligible for Deferred Action. To apply for Deferred Action, these young people will need to collect documents that demonstrate their eligibility. Such documents may include school records, such as attendance records and diplomas, among others. We ask you to notify appropriate staff at your schools so they may be better prepared to respond to requests for this documentation

We also ask you to encourage educators and others in contact with potentially eligible youth to visit the State's Deferred Action Program website - www.nysdeferredaction.ny.gov - where they can learn more about federal and State Deferred Action, and access resources available to young people interested in that program. By referring youth to this website and providing them with the New York State New Americans Hotline number – 1 (800) 566-7636 – your staff can help us to better ensure that New York's eligible youth take full advantage of the new federal Deferred Action process.

If additional information would be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact Jorge I. Montalvo (Jorge.Montalvo@dos.ny.gov) or Rodolfo Estrada (Rodolfo.Estrada@dos.ny.gov) at the New York State Office for New Americans.

Sincerely,

Cesar A. Perales
New York Secretary of State

John B. King, Jr.
Commissioner, State Education Department