

Illinois immigrant students can now pay in-state tuition rates at Illinois state colleges and universities, regardless of their immigration status.

In 2003, Illinois passed a law making college more affordable for undocumented immigrant students (110 ILCS 305/7e-5 a.k.a. HB0060). You may qualify to pay the same lower in-state tuition rates as other Illinois residents. Find out if you are eligible to take advantage of this powerful tool to help you get ahead. *This brochure can help you get started.*

In-state tuition can save you hundreds of dollars per credit hour, although the difference is smaller at some community colleges, sometimes as little as \$10 per credit hour.



Want to earn more?

Help your community?

Ensure your future?

GO TO COLLEGE!

**Now you can go to college
no matter what your status!**

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The content of this brochure is for educational purposes only, and should not be construed as legal advice that substitutes for the counsel of a licensed professional.



Chicago Appleseed
FUND FOR JUSTICE
An Affiliate of Appleseed

750 North Lake Shore Drive Fourth Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Telephone (312) 988-6565 Fax (312) 654-8644
www.chicagoappleseed.org

Immigrant students, do you DREAM of going to college but think you can't afford it?

**Know your
college options!**



Chicago Appleseed
FUND FOR JUSTICE

**DREAM Your
Future in Illinois**

What are the requirements?

If you are an undocumented immigrant, you can pay in-state tuition in Illinois if:

1. You resided with your parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in the State.
2. You graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in the State.
3. In the case the individual is not a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States, the individual should provide the university with an affidavit stating that the individual will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so.

How do I get in-state tuition?

Provide the college or university with:

1. An official high school transcript or a General Education Development (GED) certificate. If you have attended college before, provide a transcript of your college credits.
2. Proof that you have lived with a parent or guardian for three years before graduating from an Illinois high school or earning your GED.
3. An Affidavit stating you will apply for permanent resident status as soon as you are eligible. An Affidavit is a written statement of facts made by the person who signs the statement. The statement is made under oath, promising the facts stated are true.

How do I prepare an affidavit?

Each school will have its own process and many will have an affidavit form. Make sure to visit the admissions page of the state college/university

you are interested in for further information. Generally, after you fill out the school's application, they will give you an affidavit form, based on information you provide in the application. You can also contact the school you are applying to or your high school guidance counselor for information. Be careful about sharing your immigration status with people you do not know well. Chicago Appleseed has a sample affidavit on its web-site, www.chicagoappleseed.org.

To make an affidavit:

1. You must sign the affidavit in front of a Notary Public (a Notary Public is someone who oversees official oaths – see below).
2. You must have proof of identification such as:
 - A current U.S. or other government ID with pictures, signature, and physical description, OR
 - A current U.S. or foreign passport, OR
 - A notarized statement from someone who knows you and who knows the notary public, OR
 - Notarized statements from two people who know you AND who can show the Notary Public their picture ID or passport (5 ILCS 312/6-102) (2008).

The Notary must be an official Notary Public in Illinois. A Notary Public in the United States is different from a “notario público” in many parts of Latin America. In the United States, a Notary Public can be someone other than a lawyer. You do not need a lawyer to make your affidavit. A Notary Public should be free of charge or relatively inexpensive – about \$10-\$15.

How do I find a Notary Public?

The best place to look for a Notary Public is at your high school or the college or university you plan to attend. Most colleges will have a Notary Public in their admissions office, or a local community organization can help you find one. Also, your local bank should have a notary service.

Will the affidavit be kept private?

The information in your student record cannot be shared without your written permission, unless it is ordered to be released by a judge as part of a lawsuit. (The Family Educational Privacy Act – 20 USCS §1232g.)

Remember! Providing a social security number is not required for admission to a college or university.

Everyone has a right to privacy regarding his or her social security number. This right is protected by federal law. You cannot be refused acceptance to a college or university even if you refuse to provide your social security number. You should not provide a false social security number which may have future legal consequences and is illegal to do so.

Can I get student loans or scholarships?

If you do not have a social security number, you cannot receive federal student loans. However, you may be able to get private loans, grants, and/or scholarships.

Check out these sites for more information on scholarships:

EducationQuest: www.educationquest.org

Fast Web: www.fastweb.com

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund:

www.maldef.org/education/scholarships.htm

Scholarship Resource Network Express:

www.srnexpress.com

Chicago Appleseed:

www.chicagoappleseed.org