

Higher Education Now More Affordable For Some Immigrant Students In Nebraska



ARE IMMIGRANT STUDENTS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR IN-STATE TUITION?

Legislative Bill 239, which is commonly referred to as the “in-state tuition bill,” became law in the summer of 2006, opening up the opportunity for more immigrant students to access post-secondary education regardless of their immigration status.

HOW CAN IMMIGRANT STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR IN-STATE TUITION?

The students must have lived with a parent or guardian in Nebraska for three years, graduate from a private or public high school in Nebraska, and submit an affidavit to their college or university saying they will adjust their immigration status when eligible to do so. (The affidavit process will vary according to each school’s admissions office.)

WHAT IS THE COST DIFFERENCE?

It really depends on the school. Some community colleges have less than a \$10 per credit hour difference for in state or out of state tuition. However, at four year college or university the difference can be hundreds of dollars per credit hour thus saving the student thousands of dollars a year.

ARE STUDENT LOANS AVAILABLE?

Undocumented students are not eligible for any federal financial aid or grants but may qualify for some forms of state help or private scholarships. Free and confidential information for undocumented students or students from a mixed status family about financial aid can be accessed if you call the EducationQuest Foundation at 1-800-666-3721.

ARE THERE ANY IMMIGRATION CONCERNS?

Immigrant students who have questions about their legal status should contact a reputable immigration attorney. Call the Nebraska Bar Association at 1-800-742-3005 for a free referral. A list of nonprofit immigration legal services options is available at www.neappleseed.org/immigrants/services.html

ARE THERE ANY CONFIDENTIALITY CONCERNS?

Information about immigration status provided to the college or university should be considered private student records and can not be released without student consent.



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941 O Street #105, Lincoln NE 68508
Phone: (402) 438-8853 or 1-800-845-3746
Website: www.NeAppleseed.org