

In-State Tuition to Public School Students

We cannot insist too much on the duty of giving foreigners a hospitable reception. It is a duty imposed by human solidarity and by Christian charity, and it is incumbent upon families and educational institutions in the host nations. (*Pope Paul VI, On the Development of Peoples*)

Church teaching

- ★ In God's plan, every man is born to seek self-fulfillment, for every human life is called to some task by God. At birth a human being possesses certain aptitudes and abilities in germinal form, and these qualities are to be cultivated so that they may bear fruit. By developing these traits through formal education of personal effort, the individual works his way toward the goal set for him by the Creator. (*Pope Paul VI, On the Development of Peoples*)
- ★ The unjust inequalities in the possession and use of material goods are accompanied and aggravated by similarly unjust inequalities in the opportunity for culture. Every human being has a right to culture, which is the specific mode of a truly human existence to which one gains access through the development of one's intellectual capacities, moral virtues, abilities to relate with other human beings, and talents for creating things which are useful and beautiful. From this flows the necessity of promoting and spreading education, to which every individual has an inalienable right. (*Instruction on Christian Freedom and Education*)
- ★ Regulating immigration according to criteria of equity and balance is one of the indispensable conditions for ensuring that immigrants are integrated into society with the guarantees required by recognition of their human dignity. Immigrants are to be received as persons and helped, together with their families, to become a part of societal life. (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church, 298*)
- ★ To fulfill the mandate she has received from her divine founder of proclaiming the mystery of salvation to all men and of restoring all things in Christ, Holy Mother the Church must be concerned with the whole of man's life, even the secular part of it insofar as it has a bearing on his heavenly calling. Therefore she has a role in the progress and development of education. (*Pope Paul VI, Declaration on Christian Education*)

Resources

- ★ **Texas Catholic Conference** Education page (www.TXcatholic.org/ed.asp)
- ★ **Justice for Immigrants** (USCCB) (www.JusticeForImmigrants.org)
- ★ **The Dream Act** (USCCB) (www.usccb.org/mrs/dream.shtml)
- ★ **Migration and Refugee Services** (USCCB) (www.USCCB.org/mrs/)
- ★ **Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope** (USCCB) (www.usccb.org/mrs/stranger.shtml)

(Last updated November 11, 2008)

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The Texas Catholic Conference promotes the Catholic Teaching that all people have a right to education and that a true education aims at the formation of the human person in the pursuit of his or her ultimate end and of the good of the societies of which each person is a member, and in whose obligations, as an adult, each will share. Therefore we oppose any efforts to reduce access to education for immigrants and we support efforts to ensure that students who attend Texas public schools are eligible for in-state tuition, as a means of making higher education more accessible to Texas primary and secondary school students.

Offering In-State tuition to Texas' public school students is a strategy in "Closing the Gaps: Texas' Plan for Higher Education," a Plan for Higher Education intended to close the gaps in higher education rates across Texas by 2015.ⁱ

Federally, the Texas Catholic Conference, in conjunction with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, supports the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2007, known as the DREAM Act. The intent of the DREAM Act is to provide legal status and educational opportunity to those who entered the United States as minor children. The DREAM Act has two major provisions (1) it creates a tiered system granting legal status to undocumented aliens who arrived in the United States before age 16; and (2) it repeals current law so as to allow public universities to grant in-state tuition to undocumented aliens.ⁱⁱ

Current In-State Tuition Criteria for Higher Educationⁱⁱⁱ

In 2005, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill (S.B.) 1528, which made residency requirements essentially uniform for all students, regardless of their legal status. As of Fall 2006, anyone who has lived in Texas for three years before graduating or receiving a diploma equivalent from a high school, and has also lived in the state for a year prior to enrollment in college, qualifies for in-state tuition as a Texas resident. Any student who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident still must sign the affidavit concerning permanent residency.

ⁱ "Closing the Gaps: the Texas Higher Education Plan." Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. <<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/0379.PDF>>.

ⁱⁱ "The DREAM Act." Office of Migration & Refugee Policy. <<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/dream.shtml>>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Combs, Susan. "Education." Undocumented Immigrants in Texas. Dec. 2006. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. <<http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/undocumented/3education.html>>.