



Fighting Hate
Teaching Tolerance
Seeking Justice

Southern Poverty Law Center
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William T. McFatter Technical College
6500 Nova Drive
Davie, FL 33317

Re: In-State Tuition Requirements for Select Immigrant Florida High School Graduates

Dear Technical College / School Board Official,

In 2012, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) filed a lawsuit challenging the denial of in-state tuition to US citizen students with undocumented parents. As a result of our lawsuit, the Florida Legislature enacted laws that make all Florida high school graduates eligible for in-state tuition at Florida's state colleges and universities, charter technical career centers, and career centers operated by a school district. Eligible students also include:

- Undocumented students;
- Recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status;
- US citizens with undocumented parents;
- Lawful permanent residents;
- and certain non-US citizen students.

However, despite the changes in the law, SPLC and the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC) have received hundreds of requests for assistance from students who have been denied or encountered barriers when applying for in-state tuition throughout the state.

We request that you take immediate steps to ensure that all current and prospective students have access to in-state tuition at your institution. This can be done by taking the following steps:

- 1) Verify that your institution is using the most recently approved Florida Residency Declaration for Tuition Purposes form as approved by the Florida Board of Governors and/or the Florida Department of Education.
- 2) Take steps to ensure that information regarding eligibility for and access to in-state tuition is clearly available via your webpage and within all relevant department offices on campus.
- 3) Ensure that there is an appeals process in place for students who feel they have been wrongfully denied in-state tuition. Information about the appeals process must be in writing and prominently displayed on your website.

In the coming months SPLC and FLIC will continue to monitor statewide implementation of the in-state

tuition policies in order to identify institutions that are not in compliance with state law. Attached you will find brochures and guides produced by SPLC and FLIC to assist students with their applications for in-state tuition. We hope you will review these guides and share them with relevant staff and students.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions regarding this matter. We are available to provide training or technical assistance to your staff if needed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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