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## DREAMS BEGIN HERE, BUT STUDENTS NEED TO ACT

### New York State Legislation to Benefit Undocumented Students Living In New York

The NYS Legislature has passed the DREAM Act that will benefit qualified undocumented students living in New York State. The bills passed by both houses allows eligible undocumented students attending school in New York to apply for New York's tuition assistance awards, including TAP, and the Excelsior Scholarship, if they:

- Attended an approved NYS high school for two or more years, graduated from an approved NYS high school and applied for attendance to a NYS college or university within five years of receiving their NYS high school diploma; or
- Attended an approved NYS program for a state high school equivalency diploma, received their state high school equivalency diploma and applied for attendance to a NYS college or university within five years of receiving their state high school equivalency diploma; or
- Are otherwise eligible for in-state tuition at SUNY, CUNY or community colleges as prescribed by their admission criteria.

The legislation would also help immigrant families prepare for the costs of higher education by allowing an individual with a taxpayer identification number to open a New York State 529 family tuition account under the New York State College Savings Program, as well as create a DREAM Fund, which would be entirely funded by private donations and make scholarships available to the children of immigrants.

You can review the current legislation at:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/S1250>

*Above article penned by Elizabeth Elizalde and Ben Chapman appeared in the NY Daily News – January 18, 2019*