



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, Executive Director
255 Capitol Street NE, Third Floor
Salem, OR 97310
www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: STATE FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION FOR OREGON
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

TO: Secondary and postsecondary administrators, faculty, and staff including
superintendents, presidents, principals, student services and financial aid
professionals, counselors, and advisors

FROM: Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Higher Education Coordinating Commission
(HECC); Juan Baez-Arévalo, Interim Director, HECC Office of Student Access and
Completion

DATE: February 21, 2017

We are writing to ensure that education partners, particularly those advising students about financial aid for college, have accurate information to advise undocumented students on the process for applying for state-administered grant and scholarship programs. **Undocumented students in Oregon—including students with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status—should not be dissuaded from applying for state grants that can help them realize their dreams of a college education.**

Undocumented students may be eligible for the following financial aid programs administered by the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC), as long as students meet all other program requirements: Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon Promise, and some OSAC-administered private scholarships. Information on eligibility and deadlines for these programs are available at www.OregonStudentAid.gov.

As part of the application process for these programs, undocumented students must complete the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). The ORSAA is an Oregon-developed application for students who are not eligible to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It is a confidential application that is used solely by the HECC to qualify students for financial aid in Oregon. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes. Information that is shared with the HECC via the ORSAA is used only by the HECC and our partnering colleges, universities, and foundations for administering grants and scholarships; we do not share it with any other agency, state or federal.

Our agency is mindful of the Governor's [Executive Order 17-04](#), which requires that: “no state agency may use moneys, equipment, or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the US in violation of federal immigration laws...”

The HECC will do everything within our authority and jurisdiction to protect the ongoing confidentiality of the ORSAA information.

If education partners have questions on these programs or the [ORSAA](#), they may contact OSAC at ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov or (541)687-7400.