Addressing postsecondary access for undocumented students

The United States is home to more than 10 million undocumented individuals, and a sizeable portion of that group are students. To address this population, both federal and state authorities have taken action to provide policy and regulations, including addressing in-state tuition and financial aid.

This new ECS Education Trends report focuses on the 18 states that have passed legislation to update residency eligibility for in-state tuition and state financial aid to include additional individuals residing in the state, including undocumented individuals. In order to qualify, a student must meet a number of established requirements. One major addition to these policies includes student efforts to work toward a legalized status in the country.

"This is sure to be an ongoing discussion, and state and federal actions could continue to inform and influence each other moving forward," ECS researcher Lexi Anderson said. "Policymakers may want to consider a number of questions outlined in this report if implementing or considering enacting policies regarding in-state tuition or state financial aid for undocumented students."

Some important takeaways from this report:

- Federal policy, including executive actions, provides a backdrop for states to consider in-state tuition and state financial aid policies.
- In five states, undocumented students are eligible to receive state financial aid.
- Several states, highlighted in this report, have enacted policies worth reviewing.

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- What actions should states consider taking for undocumented students and in-state tuition/financial aid? bit.ly/1Dz2TcQ @ECScomms

In case you missed it:

**Blueprint for college readiness:** A 50-state policy analysis and database

ECS launched the Blueprint for College Readiness initiative to provide guidance and support to the growing number of states working to improve student success and transition from high school into postsecondary. Designed by state leaders for state leaders, the Blueprint features a menu of 10 critical policies promoting college readiness and success.

For questions, contact ECS Director of Communications Amy Skinner at askinner@ecs.org or (303) 299. 3609.

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