



# FLORIDA POLICY INSTITUTE

**A Smart Investment: Expanding Financial  
Aid to Florida's Undocumented Students**



# Introductions

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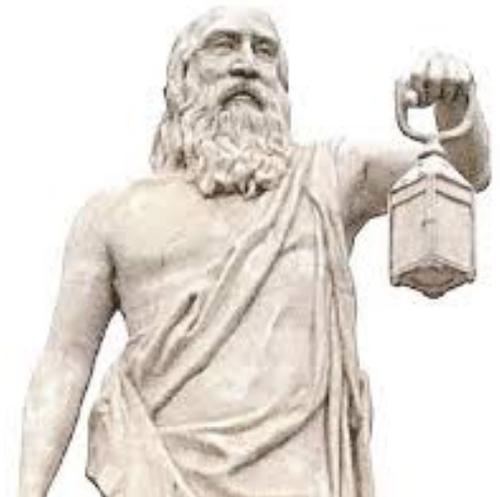


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“The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.”

- Diogenes, 323 B.C.





# Investing in Every Young Person in Florida Makes Sense

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- ▶ DREAMers –American in every way, except on paper.
- ▶ Florida already invests in these students through K12 public schools.
- ▶ Florida’s Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) set goal of 55% attainment by 2025.
- ▶ HECC estimates that 784,000 additional working-age Floridians will need to acquire a postsecondary credential
- ▶ Many students without documentation are well prepared academically by our public schools and would complete with some financial assistance.
- ▶ “Culture of completion” should push for policies that support our students without documentation to be included in the 2025 goal.



# Investing in Every Young Person in Florida Makes Sense

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- ▶ In Florida, (DACA and DACA eligible) currently contribute almost \$78 million in state and local taxes (annually)
- ▶ The median income of an immigrant with a Bachelor's is 156% higher than one with only a high school diploma or GED.
- ▶ Bachelor's recipients pay an estimated \$2,138 more in taxes to state and local government than high school alone.



# Undocumented Young People in Florida - Definitions

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- ▶ DREAMers – young persons qualified under the 2010 federal DREAM Act (did not pass).
  - ▶ Young people brought to US as children without proper documentation
  - ▶ American in every way, except on paper.
- ▶ Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
  - ▶ Defers any deportations and allows young person to work. Not a path to citizenship.
  - ▶ No new applicants allowed after 2017 to present (program began in 2012)
  - ▶ Must:
    - ▶ be under 31 as of 6/2012, have come to the US under the age of 16, continuously lived in US from 2007 to present
    - ▶ In school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a GED, or been honorably discharged from armed forces



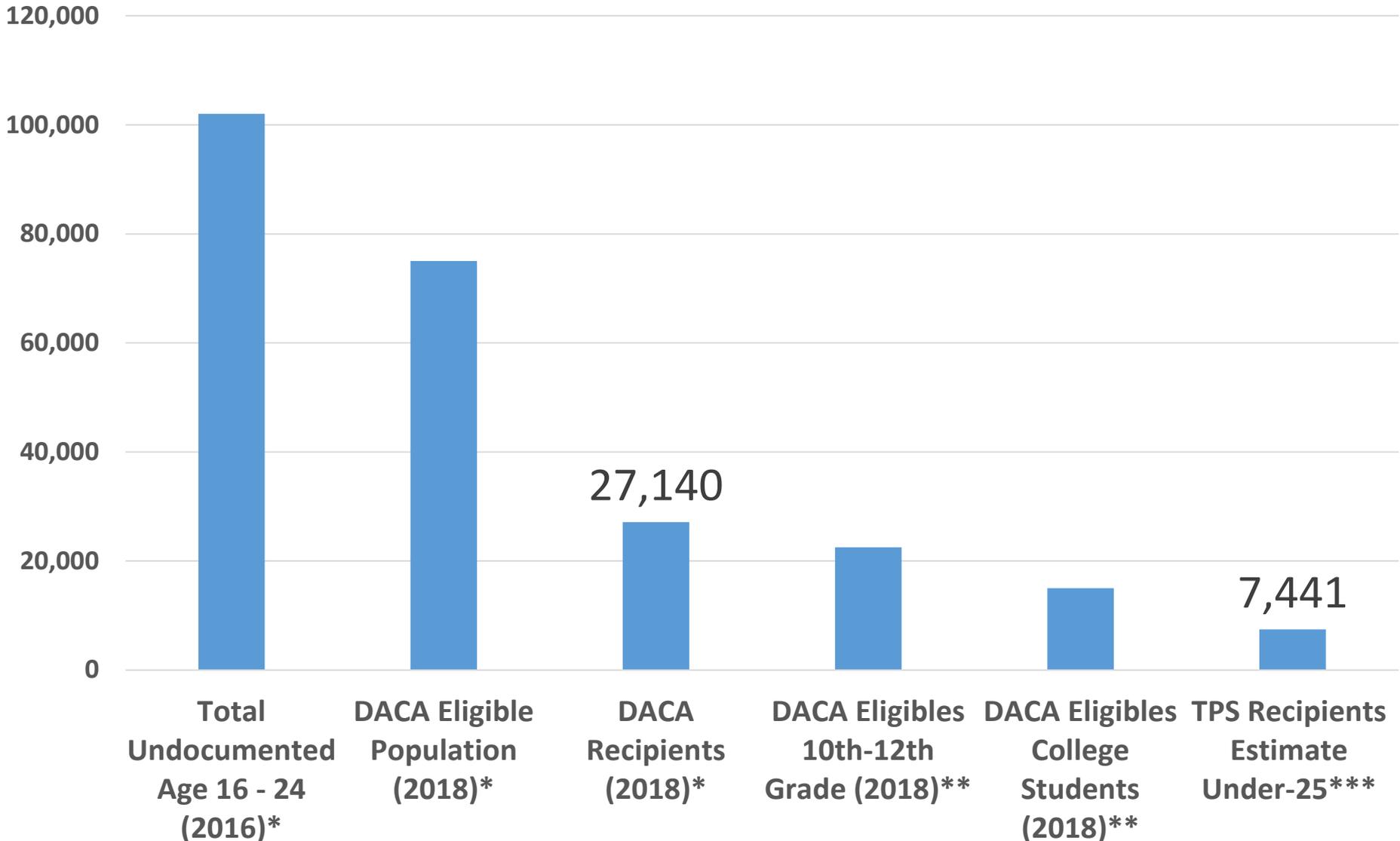
# Undocumented Young People in Florida - Definitions

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- ▶ Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
  - ▶ Dept of Homeland Security may add a foreign nation to the TPS list if there is an ecological disaster or societal crisis that makes returning to that nation a significant risk
  - ▶ People in the US with TPS:
    - ▶ Are not removable from the US
    - ▶ Can work legally
    - ▶ May be granted foreign travel authorization
  - ▶ Current TPS Countries: El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen
    - ▶ In Florida, Haitians are the largest population of TPS recipients (32,500), followed by Hondurans (7,800) and Salvadorans (4,500)



# Select Florida Young Immigrant Populations



\*Migration Policy Institute \*\*FPI Analysis of MPI and Census Data \*\*\*FPI Analysis of Center for American Progress Data



# Financial Aid Policies Regarding Undocumented Florida High School Graduates

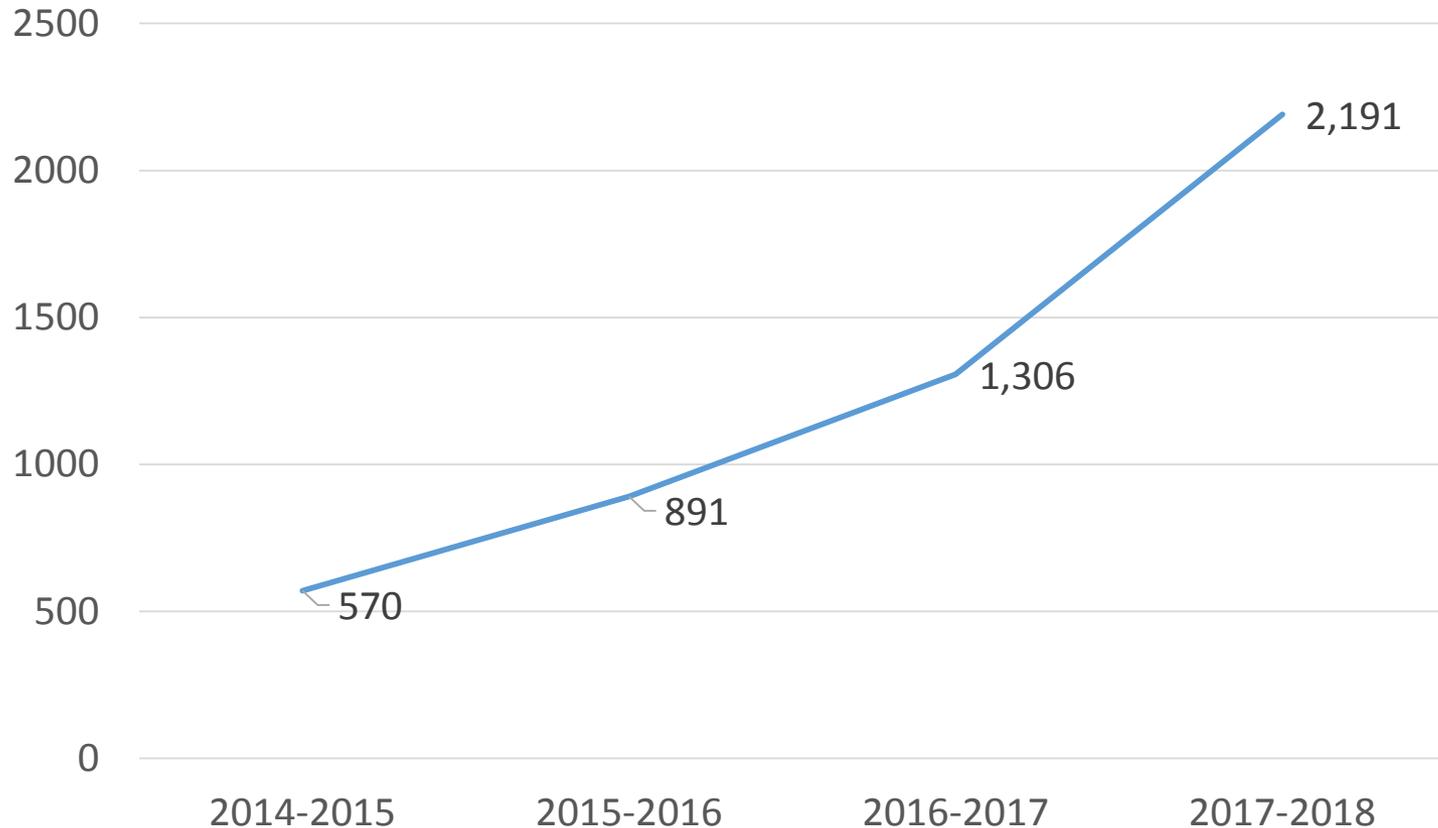
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- ▶ DREAMers and/or DACA/TPS recipients: Not eligible for federal aid including Pell Grants and federal loans
- ▶ Florida state aid: DREAMers/DACA/TPS/Undocumented not eligible for Bright Futures or need-based aid, other aid
- ▶ Florida in-state tuition: Undocumented students are eligible for in-state tuition (2014)
  - ▶ Only if graduated from FL HS & at least 3 years in FL schools
  - ▶ Went into effect 2014-15 school year (Gov. Scott signed 6/2014)



# Undocumented Florida Students Utilizing In-State Tuition Policy

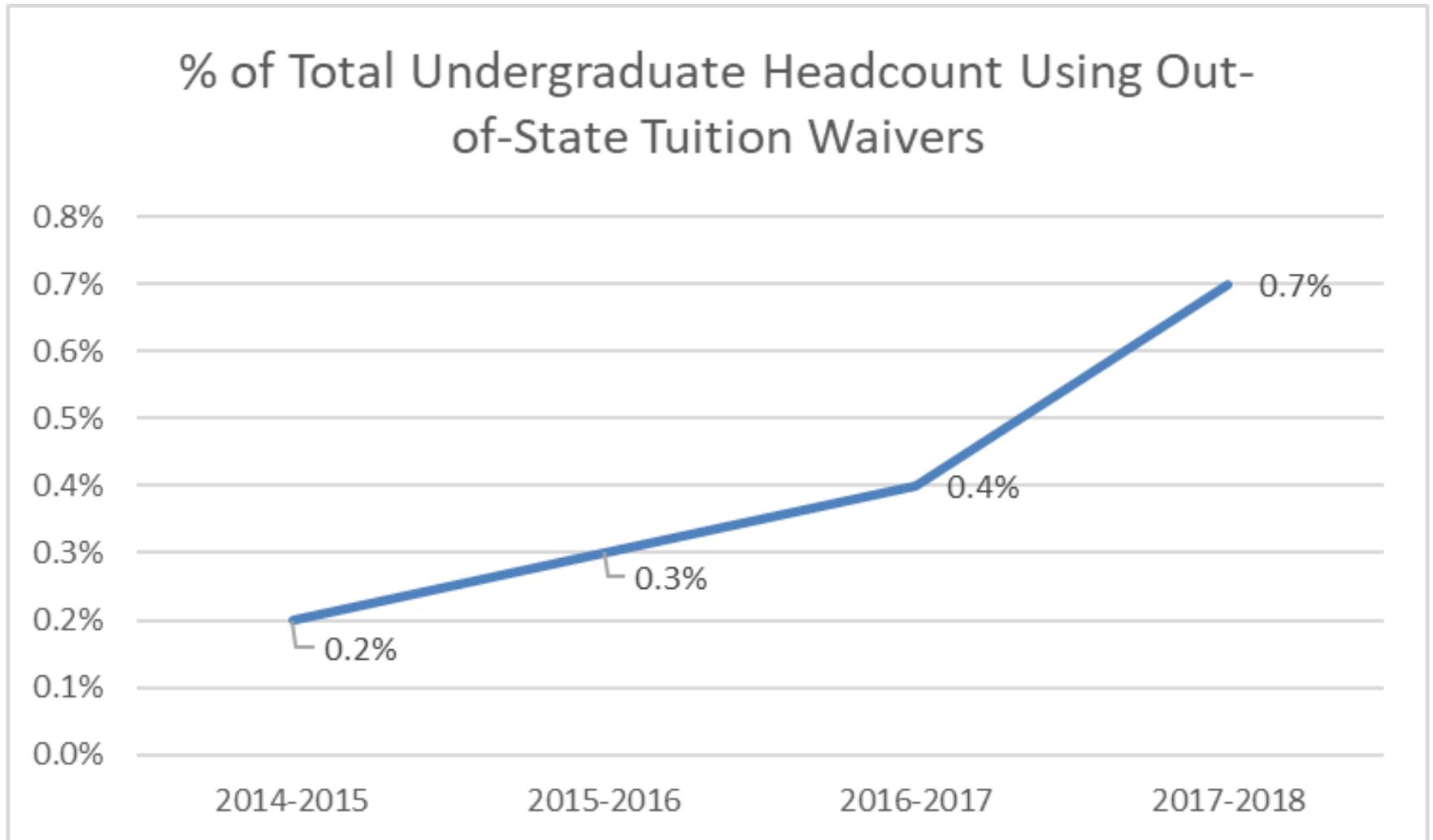
## Out-of-State Tuition Waivers for Florida's State University System



Source: Board of Governors, ODA Staff, 2019-04-29



# Undocumented Florida Students Utilizing In-State Tuition Policy



Source: Board of Governors, ODA Staff, 2019-04-29



# In-State College is Still Expensive

## *Florida International University (FIU)*

### How much does it cost to attend?

In State Florida Resident Sticker Price

**\$23,688**

Tuition **\$4,721**

Books and Supplies **\$1,634**

Other Fees **\$1,835**

Room and Board **\$10,882**

Other Expenses Budget **\$4,616**

Out of State Resident Sticker Price

**\$35,496**

Tuition **\$16,529**

Books and Supplies **\$1,634**

Other Fees **\$1,835**

Room and Board **\$10,882**

Other Expenses Budget **\$4,616**

[www.collegesimplify.com](http://www.collegesimplify.com)



# Financial Aid Policies Regarding Undocumented Students

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- ▶ States that offer financial aid (merit and need-based) to their undocumented high school graduates:
  - ▶ Texas (2,819 students/\$12 million – 2016, 2% of total grant funds)
  - ▶ California
  - ▶ Washington
  - ▶ New Mexico
  - ▶ Minnesota
  - ▶ Oregon
  - ▶ New Jersey (513 students/\$1.63m first year)
  - ▶ Hawaii
  - ▶ Connecticut (January 2020)



# Florida Policy Proposals

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## Florida Legislature 2019

- ▶ H.B. 457/ S.B. 1234 (2019)– “Student Eligibility Requirements for State Financial Aid Awards and Tuition Assistance Grants”
  - ▶ Rep. Carlos Guillermo-Smith/Rep. Fentrice Driskell/ Sen. Taddeo
  - ▶ Extends state financial aid programs including need-based and merit-based (Bright Futures) to TPS and DACA Recipients (not broader DREAMer population)
  - ▶ FPI estimates expense of \$3 to \$5 million
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# Florida Policy Proposals

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## Florida Policy Institute recommendations:

- Expand eligibility for Florida's financial aid programs to undocumented;
  - Match eligibility to current eligibility for out-of-state tuition waivers
    - Estimate of \$4 to \$7.6 million cost (2% of recipients)
  - Invest in uniform training/support for college/univ to guide DREAMers
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# Stay Connected

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# Candid Conversation Panel

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