



Senator Jose Peralta New York State DREAM ACT

Step 1: Determining Your Eligibility

If you fit one of the descriptions below, you may be eligible for one or more NYS student financial aid awards under the DREAM Act:

1. Your permanent home is in NYS and you are or have ONE of the following:
 - A. [U-Visa](#)
 - B. [T-Visa](#)
 - C. [Temporary protected status](#), pursuant to the Federal Immigration Act of 1990
 - D. [Without lawful immigration status](#)
 - E. **AND** you meet ONE of the following criteria:
 - a. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in an *undergraduate program* at a NYS college within *five* years of receiving your NYS high school diploma *OR*
 - b. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in a *graduate program* at a NYS college within *ten* years of receiving your NYS high school diploma *OR*
 - c. You attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in an *undergraduate program* at a NYS college within *five* years of receiving a NYS high school equivalency diploma *OR*
 - d. You attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in a *graduate program* at a NYS college within *ten* years of receiving your NYS high school equivalency diploma *OR*
 - e. Are charged in-State college tuition for any reason
 - F. Note: Individuals without lawful immigration status will be required to file an affidavit with their college stating that they filed an application to legalize their immigration status or will file such application as soon as they are eligible to do so.
2. Your permanent home is outside of NYS and you are or have ONE of the following:
 - A. U.S. citizen
 - B. Permanent lawful resident
 - C. Of a class of refugees paroled by the attorney general under his or her parole authority pertaining to the admission of aliens to the U.S.



- D. [U-Visa](#)
- E. [T-Visa](#)
- F. [Temporary protected status](#), pursuant to the Federal Immigration Act of 1990
- G. [Without lawful immigration status](#)
- H. **AND** you meet ONE of the following criteria:
 - a. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in an *undergraduate program* at a NYS college within *five* years of receiving a NYS high school diploma *OR*
 - b. You attended a NYS high school for 2 or more years, graduated from a NYS high school, and applied for attendance in a *graduate program* at a NYS college within *ten* years of receiving your NYS high school diploma *OR*
 - c. Attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in an *undergraduate program* at a NYS college within *five* years of receiving a NYS high school equivalency diploma *OR*
 - d. You attended an approved program for a NYS high school equivalency diploma, received a NYS high school equivalency diploma, and applied for attendance in a *graduate program* at a NYS college within *ten* years of receiving your NYS high school equivalency diploma *OR*
 - e. Are charged in-State college tuition for any reason
 - f. Note: Individuals without lawful immigration status will be required to file an affidavit with their college stating that they filed an application to legalize their immigration status or will file such application as soon as they are eligible to do so.

Step 2: Completing the Application

Complete your application on NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) Web Site. Application not available as yet.

Students meeting the eligibility criteria can apply for one or more HESC-administered grant and scholarship programs by visiting our website. ***Check NYS Higher Education Services Corporation www.hesc.ny.gov for more details and launch date for the application.***

You may apply for multiple grant or scholarship awards, but will only need to complete one application.

The application will be simple and straight forward, and all information provided will be used **ONLY** for determining eligibility for and administering awards.

Applicants without lawful immigration status will not be asked for their home address and will **NOT** have to upload financial records.



Step 3: Monitoring the Status of Your Application on HESC

Once you have submitted an application, it is your responsibility to monitor the status of your application and to make sure your application is complete. You will be able to monitor the status of your application online after submitting your application and uploading any required documentation.

Step 4: Award Notification and Acceptance

NYS HESC will be notify you by text or email when a determination has been made regarding your eligibility for each award for which you have applied. If you are determined to be eligible for an award, your next step will be to accept the award!

For certain awards, you must sign a contract agreeing to live and/or work in New York State for a required number of years after graduation as a condition of receiving the award. If you decide not to accept an award with a post-graduation requirement, please indicate this on the contract, and let us know why.

Term Definitions

- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS):** allows foreign nationals to remain in the U.S. if during the time they were in the U.S. something catastrophic happened in their country of origin preventing their safe return – for example war, famine, natural disaster, or epidemic. TPS allows people to work legally and be protected from deportation.
- **T-Visa:** allows the granting of lawful status to noncitizen victims of human trafficking, as well as their immediate family members, who assist in the prosecution of the trafficking. It allows people to remain and work temporarily in the U.S.
- **U-Visa:** allows for the granting of lawful status to noncitizen crime victims who suffered significant physical or mental abuse (and their immediate family members) who assist in the prosecution of the crime. It allows people to remain and work temporarily in the U.S.
- **Without Lawful Immigration Status:** living in the U.S. illegally either because lawful status never existed or has ended.

Tax Implications

Any award payment received may have tax implications. Any questions regarding this should be directed to a tax professional, the Internal Revenue Service, or the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.