



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SMMUSD Raising Funds to Support DACA Renewals for Students**

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is joining forces with the City of Santa Monica and Santa Monica College to raise funds to help pay the \$505 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal fee for SMMUSD students, SMC students and residents.

Anyone who is interested in supporting SMMUSD DACA students may donate in any amount through this website: [https://give.everydayhero.com/us/smmusd\\_dreamers](https://give.everydayhero.com/us/smmusd_dreamers).

SMMUSD students from Samohi, Olympic and Malibu High School can apply for the assistance by scheduling an appointment with SMC's Director of Academic Affairs Initiatives, Edna Chavarry, during hosted DACA Renewal Processing Events that have begun at SMC this week. Representatives from Public Counsel will assist in the processing of renewal applications. Contact Ms. Chavarry at [chavarry\\_edna@smc.edu](mailto:chavarry_edna@smc.edu) or 310-434-8719 to make an appointment. Evening or weekend appointments are available through Public Counsel at 213-385-2977.

"We are uncertain about how many students we have who are DACA recipients seeking renewal as we do not ask or record this information upon enrollment or registration," Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said. "However, we want to make sure that any of our students who would like to apply for renewal are able to do so confidentially, and this process provides for that."

Dr. Drati commented that he is appreciative of both SMC and the City of Santa Monica for their interests in assisting our students, along with SMC students and local residents who are facing this challenging issue.

"The school board and I reaffirm our commitment to providing all school-aged students with access to an excellent education and the opportunities that education provides without regard to their immigration status or the immigration status of their parents," Dr. Drati said.

The Board of Education resolution dated December 15, 2016 outlines the commitment that all SMMUSD campuses will continue to be "safe zones." The Board resolution and resources can be found online: <http://www.smmusd.org/superintendent/daca.html>

Information regarding the City and SMC's efforts are online: [www.smc.edu](http://www.smc.edu).

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