

SAF

STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

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A migrant student holds up a t-shirt she made at a Levante Art Workshop. Photo by/por Ilda Santiago

"North Carolina requires undocumented students to pay out-of-state tuition to attend any public university or community college in the state."

"Carolina del Norte requiere que los estudiantes indocumentados paguen la matrícula como no residentes del estado para asistir a una universidad pública o colegio comunitario en el estado."

Focus on Migrant Education



Education for All

by Marisol Jimenez-McGee, Director of Advocacy Programs, El Pueblo

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the *Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA)*. This law said that undocumented students could not qualify for in-state tuition unless their state passed a law that let them be considered residents for tuition purposes. Since then, many states have passed laws that would allow undocumented students who have lived there for several years to be eligible for in-state tuition. Currently, nine states have passed these kinds of laws, including Oklahoma, New York, Texas, Utah, Kansas, New Mexico, Washington, Illinois, and California. At least 16 other states have had bills introduced to provide in-state tuition to undocumented students, including North Carolina.

North Carolina requires undocumented students to pay out-of-state tuition rates to attend any public university or community college in the state. The costs of out-of-state tuition, however, are up to five times more expensive than in-state rates. Because these students do not qualify for financial aid and most scholarships, the costs of tuition must be paid out-of-pocket or through a limited pool of private scholarships. Many graduating students are realizing that they will not be able to continue their education because of this major financial obstacle.

In April 2005, a bill was introduced in the NC General Assembly that would allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition rates if they had attended four years of high school in North Carolina, and been admitted into a university or community college. HB 1183 *Access to Education and a Better Economic Future* was sponsored by a bipartisan group of representatives, and cosponsored by over 30 others. While there was strong support from industry, faith-based organizations, and many in the community-at-large, the bill did not pass during this year's legislative session.

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Educación para todos

por Marisol Jimenez-McGee, Directora de Programas de Abogacía, El Pueblo

In 1996, el Presidente Bill Clinton firmo para ser ley, *El Acto de Responsabilidad de Inmigrantes e Inmigrantes Ilegales* (Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act, en sus siglas en ingles). Esta ley establece que los estudiantes indocumentados no pueden calificar a pagar las matriculas de la universidad como residentes del estado, a menos que el estado pase una ley que determine que ellos puedan ser considerados como residentes, para efectos del pago de registro. Varios estados han pasado leyes que permitirían a los estudiantes indocumentados que hayan vivido en el estado por cierto número de años, ser elegibles a matricular para la universidad. Actualmente, nueve estados han pasado este tipo de ley, incluyendo: Oklahoma, New York, Texas, Utah, Kansas, New Mexico, Washington, Illinois y California. Por lo menos otros 16 estados han introducido el proyecto de ley para permitir el pago de matrícula de la universidad como residentes del estado a estudiantes indocumentados, incluyendo Carolina del Norte.

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Project
Levante!

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