



Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
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Memorandum to Schools on Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA)

What is DAPA?

Deferred action allows a non-U.S. citizen to remain in the U.S. temporarily by providing protection from deportation. A program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was created in 2012 for certain undocumented individuals brought into the U.S. as children and enrolled in school. Under a new program, DAPA, this protection is being extended to some undocumented parents of U.S. citizen and permanent resident children who have been in the U.S. the past five years.¹ The government is not expected to start taking applications for DAPA until May 2015, though this could change. DAPA will bring a sense of security and peace of mind to many students and their families who have been living in the shadows for fear of being deported.

How can schools help parents who may qualify for DAPA?

Applicants for DAPA need to demonstrate continuous physical presence in the United States from January 1, 2010, to the present day. Ideally, applicants should provide proof of their presence for *at least every 6 months* during this time period. You can help DAPA-eligible parents of children enrolled in your school two ways:

1. Providing a letter regarding the registration of a parent at a U.S. address for particular school years.
2. If records exist or staff can remember, documenting face-to-face encounters between school staff and the parents beginning January 1, 2010. (This might include student enrollment, parent-teacher conferences, special events, drop-off/pick-up, or any time a parent was called into the office.)

Schools may use the attached sample letter to respond to parent requests for verification of the parents' presence. Where exact dates are unavailable, it is acceptable to write the month and year only. It should be printed on your school's official letterhead and signed by an authorized individual (e.g. counselor, teacher, or administrative staff with access to records), and an original copy should be given to the parent. There is no need to notarize the letter.

¹ Each case is screened on an individual basis. To be eligible for DAPA, one must:

- Be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident child;
- Have lived continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 2010, to the present day;
- Not have been convicted of certain criminal offenses, included felonies and serious misdemeanors.



EXAMPLE Completed Sample Letter for Schools Verifying Parents' Presence for DAPA

[School Letterhead]

December 26, 2014

Re: Jane Doe

To Whom It May Concern:

Jessie Doe is a student enrolled at Wolverine Intermediate School, located at 123 Mitten Lane., Springfield, MI 12345, from September 1, 2013 to the present.

This letter verifies that Jane Doe was registered at a Michigan address, as the parent of Jessie Doe for the following school years (academic year runs September through June):

2013-2014 at an address in Springfield, MI
2014-2015 at an address in Springfield, MI

In addition, a school staff member made face-to-face contact with Jane Doe at Wolverine Intermediate School, on the following occasions:

Date	Purpose of Contact/Meeting	Staff Member(s)
August 2012	Student Enrollment	Gary Chalmers
11/10/12	Open House	Ms. Hoover
03/05/13	Parent-Teacher Conference	Ms. Hoover
10/05/13	Parent-Teacher Conference	Ms. Krabappel
02/13/2014	Meeting with Principal	Principal Skinner
May 2014	Field Trip Chaperone	Ms. Krabappel
Jan.-March 2014	Picked up child several times per month	Ms. Krabappel

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 123-456-7890.

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[Signature]

Gary Chalmers
Administrative Assistant