



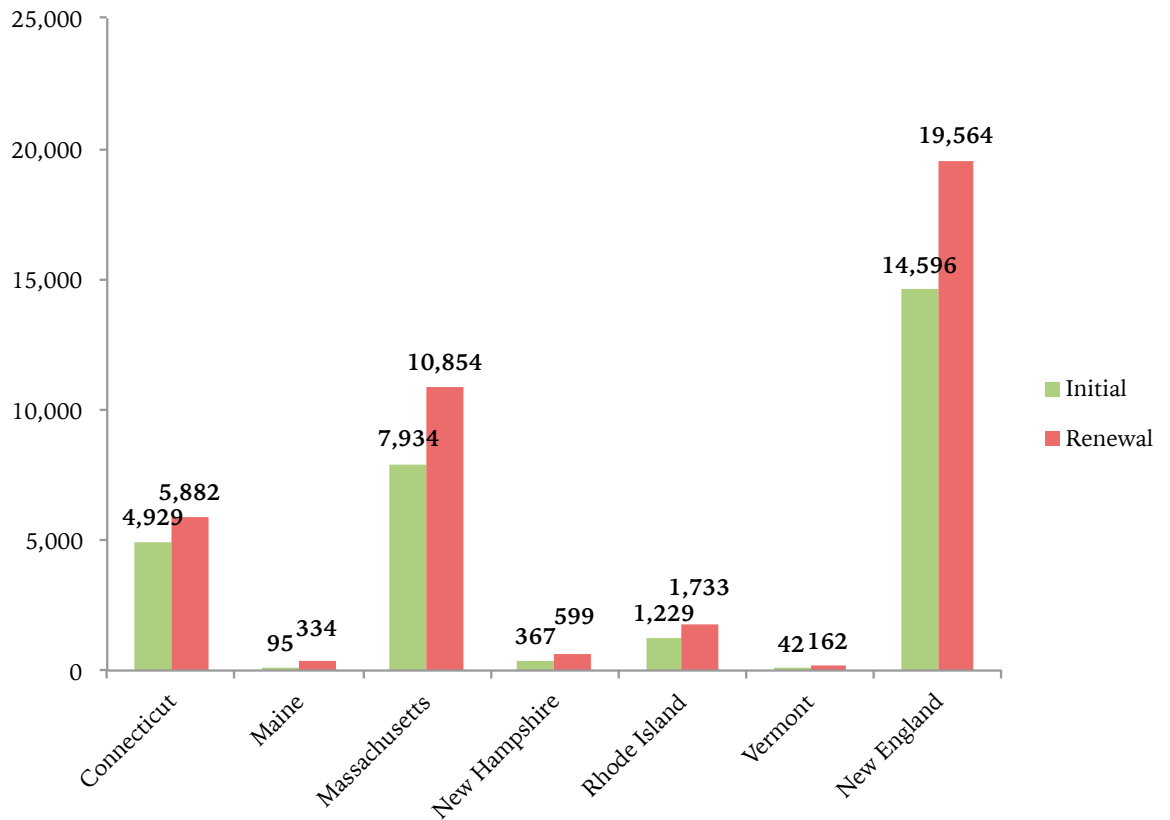
# New England Fast Facts

## Undocumented Students & Access to Higher Ed

### Where do DACA recipients reside in New England?

In New England, eight of 10 young people who apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program are approved. The figure above shows the breakdown of DACA beneficiaries by New England states. The “initial” DACA status denotes first-time applicants and “renewal” denotes those who applied for renewal after receiving two years of DACA benefits. Massachusetts is home to 54% of the region’s DACA beneficiaries. Connecticut and Rhode Island follow with the second and third largest populations of DACA recipients in the region, respectively. Between 2012-17, nearly 15,000 New England residents have participated in the DACA program and over that time, almost 20,000 applications for renewal have been approved.

Updated: Approved DACA Applications in New England, 2012-2017



Candace Williams

September 2017

New England Board of Higher Education

www.nebhe.org

## Current aid guidelines and proposed legislation in New England

	Laws providing in-state tuition and state financial aid	Laws providing in-state tuition	Offers in-state benefits via university systems	Proposed legislation related to access to higher education
CT	-	Yes	-	HB 7000, An Act Equalizing Access to Student-Generated Financial Aid, allows students equal access to institutional financial aid regardless of immigration status
ME	-	-	-	-
MA	-	-	-	S. 669, An Act Providing Access to Higher Ed for High School Graduates in the Commonwealth, provides in-state tuition for undocumented individuals based on some guidelines
NH	-	-	-	-
RI	-	-	Yes	-
VT	-	-	-	-

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, NEBHE analysis of state legislation

### Recently proposed federal legislation

The Trump administration has made an announcement that DACA will end by March 2018 if Congress does not act. Shortly after, President Trump made a series of statements and held a meeting with Democratic members of Congress that seemed to point toward a willingness to work toward the program's continuation. It's clear that Congress will be seriously considering legislative action on DACA – 78% of Americans support allowing DACA participants to remain in the country as citizens or permanent legal residents, according to a Politico/Morning Consult survey.

The Dream Act of 2017, which enjoys support on both sides of the aisle, would bar the removal of an individual who is a long-term U.S. resident and who entered the country as children. Likewise, the Bridge Act would provide a three-year provisional protected status to an individual who entered the U.S. before they were 16, is enrolled in school, has graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school or is honorably discharged from the military, and has not been convicted of a serious crime.

U.S. Rep. Carlos Curbelo, a Republican from Florida, introduced the Recognizing America's Children Act. This bill would create a five-year conditional permanent resident status for young undocumented individuals who demonstrate an intent to join the military, have been admitted to a postsecondary institution or have a valid work authorization agreement. Individuals can apply to for an extension of five more years if they have enlisted in the military, have graduated from an institution of higher education or have been employed for at least 48 months in the previous five years. Once the extension is granted they can apply for a green card.

Additionally, U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, a Democrat from Illinois, has introduced the American Hope Act. This bill would provide young undocumented individuals with an eight-year long conditional permanent residence status. The bill also allows a state to extend higher education benefits to state residents regardless of their legal status, allows for the creation of a grant-based assistance program, a Presidential Award for Business Leadership in Promoting American Citizenship, and an open source English-learning program.

*For more detailed information, please see Policy Spotlight on New England: Undocumented Students & Access to Higher Ed, Spring 2017.*

#### **About the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)**

Established in 1955 by six visionary New England governors, NEBHE is a regional compact that works across New England to: help leaders assess, develop and implement education practices and policies of regional significance; promote regional cooperation that encourages efficient sharing of education resources; and strengthen the relationship between higher education and the regional economy. Learn more at [www.nebhe.org](http://www.nebhe.org).



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