# **Immigrants and Foreign Nationals**

Domicile Workshop 2023
Session 2

**Presented by VACRAO** 

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# **Terminology**

- We often refer to a Virginia Domicile when speaking of the path to in-state tuition.
- With multiple paths to in-state tuition and state financial aid, I will often use the term: <u>Virginia</u> <u>Student</u>.
- A Virginia Student is eligible for in-state tuition and state financial aid.

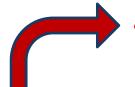
# **Terminology**

- A student is considered a Virginia Student one of three ways:
  - Meeting the Commonwealth's domicile requirements under §§ 23.1-500-510
  - Meeting the Military Dependent requirements under § 23.1-505
  - Meeting the Tuition Equity requirements under § 23.1-505.1
- A student obtaining in-state tuition through other exception clauses found under §§ 23.1-506 through 508.1 are not eligible for state financial aid and would be considered an out of state student obtaining in-state tuition under an exception.

# Paths to being a "Virginia Student"



- Path 1: Domicile
  - Traditional route reviewing whether the individual has demonstrated domicile (not just physical presence).
  - Eligible to be considered for state financial aid.



- Path 2: Tuition Equity exception
  - Not a domicile review. None of the domicile rules are applicable here.
  - Meeting the conditions results in eligibility for in-state tuition.
  - Eligible for state financial aid beginning 2022-23 award year.



- Path 3: Military dependent exception
  - Not a domicile review. None of the domicile rules are applicable here.
  - Meeting the conditions results in eligibility for in-state tuition and consideration for state aid.

Students may choose to be reviewed for in-state tuition under either option.

No need to go through domicile review first.

# **Domicile** Review

# **Distinguishing the Terms**

#### <u>ADMISSION</u> —

- No federal or state law prohibiting admission for most students.
- There are some restrictions for certain non-immigrant students such as the B-1 visa.
- Each institution has its own admission's policy.

**DOMICILE** — If admissible, can they legally form the "intent to remain"

# **Important Definitions**

**<u>Domiciliary Intent</u>** - present lawful intent to remain indefinitely.

#### **Eligible Alien** -

- Student has an immigration status which **permits** the "intent to remain" indefinitely in Virginia.
- This does not mean automatically eligible for in-state tuition.
- Student is <u>eligible to be reviewed</u> for domicile.

#### <u>Ineligible Alien</u> -

 Student not in a valid immigration status or is otherwise in a circumstance which <u>does not</u> permit intent to remain indefinitely in Virginia.

#### **Basic Process – the "First Door"**

#### Does legal authorization permit the intent to remain indefinitely?

"D. Any alien holding an immigration visa or classified as a political refugee may establish domicile *in the same manner* as any other student.

However, absent congressional intent to the contrary, any individual holding a student visa or another temporary visa does not have the capacity to intend to remain in the Commonwealth indefinitely and is therefore ineligible to establish domicile and receive in-state tuition charges."

#### **Domicile Review via:**

- **Individual**
- **Parent**
- **Spouse**
- **Legal guardian**

# Non-Citizens: Ineligible Visa Status

# If holding an <u>ineligible</u> visa type, the student "...shall be <u>ineligible</u> for Virginia domicile and for in-state tuition charges."

- Aliens without either legal presence or other circumstance that permits the "intent to remain," cannot establish domicile on their own <u>or</u> through anyone else.
- Ineligible dependent aliens <u>cannot</u> "stand in the shoes" of an <u>eligible</u> parent (or legal guardian or spouse).
- No matter how long lived in Virginia, no matter if they are married to US citizen, no matter if it's a federal delay.

#### **Exceptions:**

- "Notwithstanding" provisions explicitly granting access to in-state tuition.
- Aliens legally residing under the authorization of something other than a visa and such authorization permits the "intent to remain" (DACA, Asylum, etc. – see Addendum A).

# Categories of "Eligible Aliens"

- Permanent Residents ("green card" holders)
  - Conditional Permanent Residents
  - Adjustment of Status Applicants
- Eligible nonimmigrant categories
- Other categories
  - Temporary Protected Status ("TPS")
  - Asylum
  - Refugee
  - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA")
  - Many others

## **Non-Citizens: Addendum A**

#### "Eligible" means eligible to be reviewed for domicile.

www.schev.edu/institutions/policies-guidelines/financial-aid-domicile-officers

Visa	Eligibility Classification	Description	Government Information
Foreign	Government Of	ficials	
A-1	Eligible	Ambassador, public minister, career, diplomatic or consular officer who has been accredited by a foreign government recognized de jure by the United States	INA Section 101(a)(15)(A)(i)
		and who is accepted by the President or by the Secretary of State, and the members of the alien's immediate family. Such individuals may be reviewed for domicile.	8 CFR 214.2(a)
A-2	Eligible	Other foreign government officials or employees who have been accredited by a foreign government recognized de jure by the United States, who are	INA Section 101(a)(15)(A)(ii)
		accepted by the Secretary of State, and members of their immediate family. Such individuals may be reviewed for domicile.	8 CFR 214.2(a)
A-3	Eligible	Attendants, servants, or personal employees of A-1 and A-2, and members of their immediate family. Such individuals may be reviewed for domicile.	INA Section 101(a)(15)(A)(iii)
			8 CFR 214.2(a)
Visitors			
B-1 B-2 BBBCV	Ineligible	An alien having a residence in a foreign country which there is no intention of abandoning and who is visiting the United States temporarily for business or	INA Section 101(a)(15)(B)
		temporarily for pleasure.	8 CFR 214.2(b)

# **Non-Citizens: Moving between Status**

Either obtain the visa or other document confirming new status or use the I-797 form used to respond to immigration requests:

- From "ineligible" nonimmigrant visa to an "eligible" visa:
  - "<u>Change</u> of status".... Need to be "<u>Approved</u>"
- From a visa to "Permanent Resident":
  - "<u>Adjustment</u> of Status"... Need only "<u>Receipt Notice</u>"
- Renewing a nonimmigrant visa:
  - "<u>Extension</u> of Status"... Need only "<u>Receipt Notice</u>"

# **Non-Citizens: Important Points**

If parents are without current legal status / presence (undocumented, illegal, etc.)...

J. No student shall be deemed ineligible to establish domicile and receive in-state tuition charges solely on the basis of the immigration status of his parent.

...the student might be eligible if they have a legal status/presence that permits domiciliary intent, such as being U.S. citizen.

• No matter what the previous legal circumstance, if student has a "Receipt Notice" for "Adjustment of Status to Permanent Resident"... they can be reviewed; however...

... one-year period can begin <u>no earlier</u> than date on the notice.

# Review of Categories and Documentation

# **Applicants for Permanent Resident**

- Eligible.
- Must produce an I-797 Receipt Notice showing pending Permanent Resident application (usually I-485 Application to Adjust Status).
- Domicile can be established as early as the official Receipt Date listed on the alien's I-797 Receipt Notice.
- Permanent Resident is the <u>only</u> category where a <u>pending</u> application is sufficient. Others require <u>approval</u>.

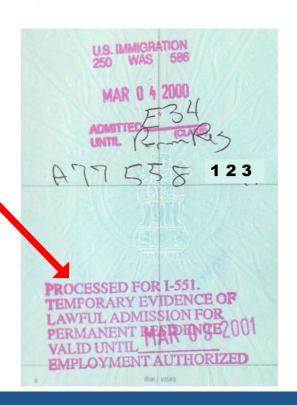
## **Permanent Residents**

- Eligible. Individual has been granted the privilege of residing permanently in the U.S. as an immigrant in accordance with the immigration laws.
- Usual evidence is I-551 Card ("green card").

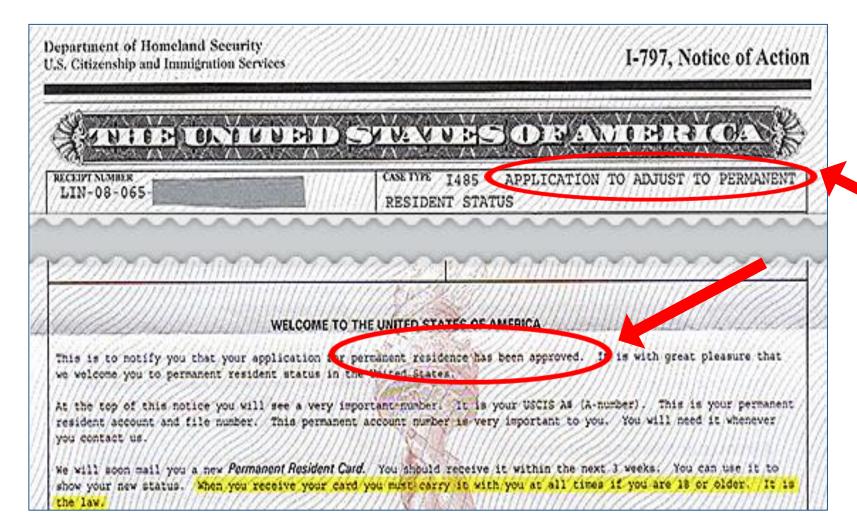
#### **Permanent Resident Card**



I-551 Stamp in Passport



# **Evidence: Permanent Resident – "approval"**



## WELCOME NOTICE OF ACTION



# **Evidence: Permanent Resident – "receipt"**

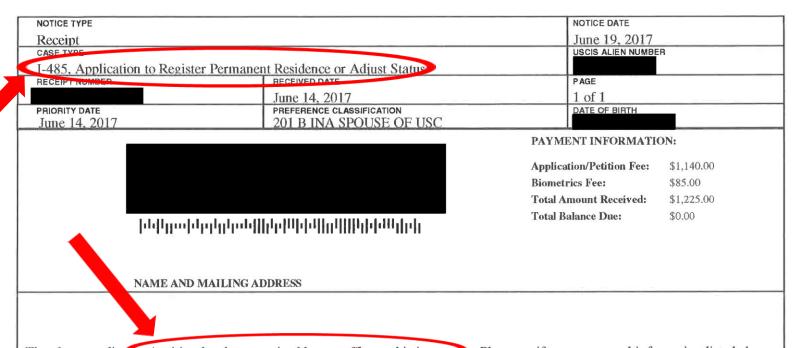
U.S. Department of Justice Notice of Action Immigration and Naturalization Service THE BULL OF THE DEAN 1485 APPLICATION TO ADJUST TO PERMANENT RECEIPT NUMBER EAC-99-RESIDENT STATUS PRIORITY DATE. APPLICANT September 1, 19 NOTICE DATE September 21. Receipt Notice Notice Type: Amount received: S / 245.00 The applyed population by graying the same developed / He starting tonge 140/to set days trong the date of this reported his to exployed this sign of chie / Tighte got in his greatest it may at the history in attempt in the tight inter My yell legist you're strated strated but shock as the start a character of who have you also done the started but yet he french hand atasks standard of state topo out you have for the first from his he topics from his the "Locarda" strategis/tysi Albas salaw" of Atah Asia Asia Salaw took

# **Evidence: Permanent Resident – "receipt"**

**Department of Homeland Security**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Form I-797C, Notice of Action

#### THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.



The above application/petition has been received by our office and is in process. Please verify your personal information listed above and immediately notify the USCIS National Customer Service Center at the phone number listed below if there are any changes.

Please note that if a priority date is printed on this notice, the priority does not reflect earlier retained priority dates.

### **Evidence: Permanent Resident – "conditional"**

# TRIBE UNITED STATES OF AMEDICA

1-797 NOTICE OF ACTION | DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

#### I-751 RECEIPT NOTICE

Receipt Number : EAC-Reference Number: A207 Petitioner:

Receipt Date: 06/19/2017 Receipt Time: 19:22 . ALLISON E.

D. GLUCKMAN MCCANDLISH HOLTON PC PO BOX 796 RICHMOND , VA 23218

\*\*\*\* THE ABOVE RECEIPT NUMBER MUST ACCOMPANY ALL INQUIRIES \*\*\*\*

Amount Received:

\$680.00

Your conditional resident status is extended for a period of one year. During the one-year extension you are authorized employment and travel. (This extension and authorization for employment and travel does not apply to you if your conditional resident status has been terminated.)

In order to further process your petition, you will be receiving an Application Support Center(ASC) appointment notice with a specific time, date, and location to capture your fingerprints, photo, and signature. You MUST wait for your appointment notice before going to the ASC for biometric processing.

MOTE. Conditional resident applicants including conditional resident

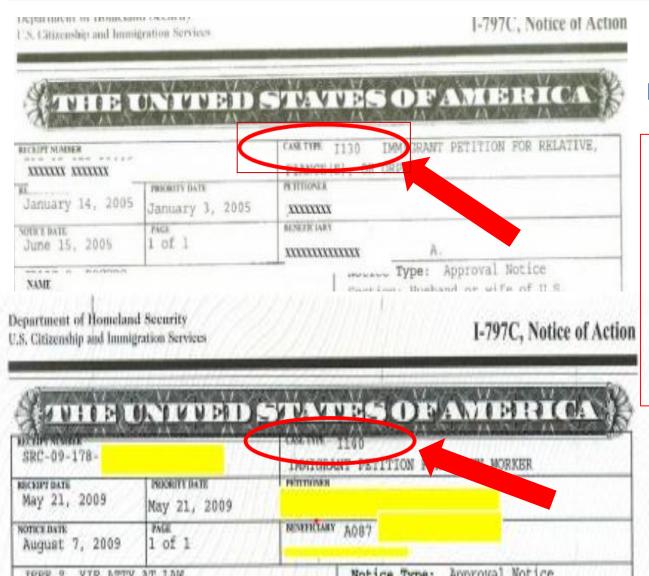
I-797 Receipt Notice for Form I-751



### **Conditional Permanent Residents**

- Eligible.
- "Two-year" instead of "permanent" green card (through marriage or investment)
- Same evidence as permanent green card.
- If card has expired, need proof that individual has applied to make card permanent (either I-751 receipt for marriage cases or I-829 for investment cases).

# Immigrant <u>Petitions</u> - not eligible for domicile



#### **I-130 Family Petition**

These petitions are preliminary steps required prior to filing for Adjustment of Status to Permanent Resident. These do not confer a status eligible to establish domicile.

I-140 Employment Petition

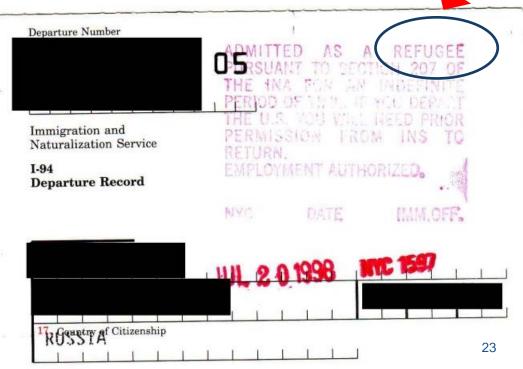
# Refugees

 Eligible to establish domicile. Refugees are admitted into the U.S. for an indefinite period of time.

 Proof of refugee status usually includes passport and I-94 endorsed to show refugee status or EAD with category A3 or A4.

There is a separate provision that allows automatic in-state

tuition for two years.



# Refugee v Parolee

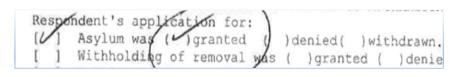
- In 2021, many from Afghanistan were permitted to enter the US under humanitarian parolee designation.
- This is not considered to be equivalent to a "refugee."
- Parolees are not eligible to establish domicile and only refugees have been granted immediate access to in-state tuition

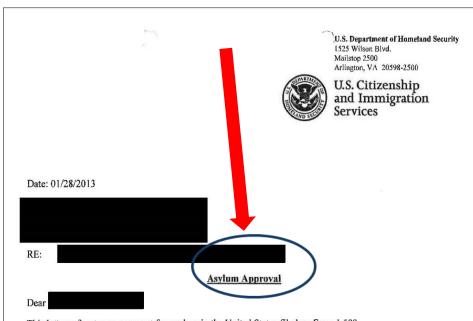
# **Asylum**

- Eligible to establish domicile. Asylees are individuals granted asylum after arriving in the U.S. Valid indefinitely.
- Asylum is granted either by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS") or by an Immigration Judge.
  - If granted by <u>USCIS</u>, proof can include EAD with category A5, asylum approval notice, or I-94 card
  - If granted by an <u>Immigration Judge</u>, proof can include EAD with category A5, court order, or I-94 card
- Must be "Approved"
   ("Pending" is not sufficient)



It has been determined that you are eligible for asylum in the United States. Attached please find a completed Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, indicating that you have been granted asylum status in the United States pursuant to § 208(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) as of 1/28/13. This grant of asylum



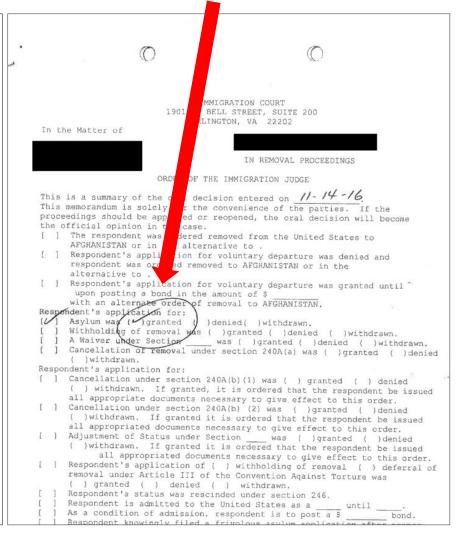


This letter refers to your request for asylum in the United States filed on Form I-589.

It has been determined that you are eligible for asylum in the United States. Attached please find a completed Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, indicating that you have been granted asylum status in the United States pursuant to § 208(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) as of 1/28/13. This grant of asylum includes your dependents listed above who are present in the United States, who were included in your asylum application, and for whom you have established a qualifying relationship by a preponderance of evidence.

You have been granted asylum in the United States for an indefinite period; however, asylum status does not give you the right to remain permanently in the United States. Asylum status may be terminated if you no longer have a well-founded fear of persecution because of a fundamental change in circumstances, you have obtained protection from another country, or you have committed certain crimes or engaged in other activity that makes you ineligible to retain asylum status in the United States. See INA § 208(c)(2).

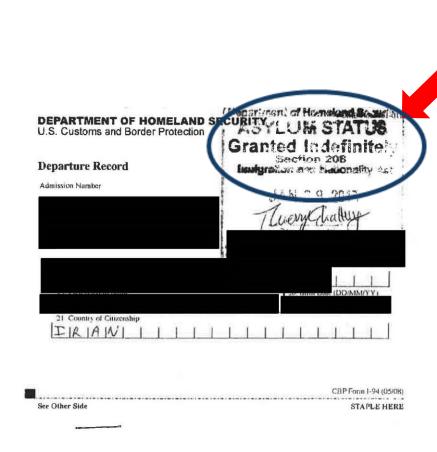
Now that you are an asylee, you may apply for certain benefits, which are listed below. You are also



#### **USCIS** Asylum Approval

#### Immigration Judge Order





**I-94** 

# **Temporary Protected Status**

- Eligible to establish domicile.
- Temporary Protected Status ("TPS") is a humanitarian status which protects people from certain countries.
- Usual proof is Employment Authorization Document ("EAD") with Category A12.
- www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status





## **USCIS** site

#### Humanitarian

Abused Spouses, Children and Parents

Employment Resources for Parolees in the United States

Processes for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans

Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Deferred Enforced Departure

Information for Afghan
Nationals

Uniting for Ukraine

Humanitarian Parole 💙

Refugees and Asylum

#### Temporary Protected Status

Need Help! ASI

**1 ALERT:** On June 21, 2023, DHS published Federal Register notices (FRNs) announcing the rescission of the 2017 and 2018 terminations of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations of <u>El Salvador</u>, <u>Honduras</u>, <u>Nepal</u>, and <u>Nicaragua</u> effective June 9, 2023.

DHS will extend the designations of:

- El Salvador for 18 months, from Sept. 10, 2023, through March 9, 2025 (60-day re-registration period from July 12, 2023, through Sept. 10, 2023);
- Honduras for 18 months, from Jan. 6, 2024, through July 5, 2025 (60-day re-registration period from Nov. 6, 2023, through Jan. 5, 2024);
- Nepal for 18 months, from Dec. 25, 2023, through June 24, 2025 (60-day re-registration period from Oct. 24, 2023, through Dec. 23, 2023); and
- Nicaragua for 18 months, from Jan. 6, 2024, through July 5, 2025 (60-day re-registration period from Nov. 6, 2023, through Jan. 5, 2024).

Existing TPS beneficiaries who wish to extend their status must re-register during the 60-day re-registration period for their country's designation. Please do not re-register for TPS until the re-registration period for your country begins. We cannot adjudicate your application before the effective date of the extension.

For additional information, please see the <u>TPS El Salvador</u>, <u>TPS Honduras</u>, <u>TPS Nepal</u>, and <u>TPS Nicaragua</u> webpages.

**1** ALERT: Certain TPS beneficiaries and applicants who electronically filed Form I-765, Application for

# **Sample Evidentiary Documents: VISA**

Don't confuse this for the visa "type."
This is an F-1 visa. The R simply means "regular."

## **Visa Passport Stamp**



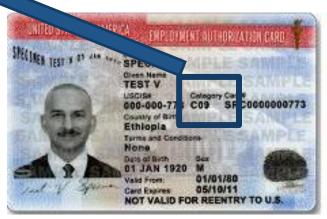


### **Employment Authorization (Card) Document - EAD**

<u>www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/information-employers-employees/employer-information/employment-authorization</u>



Useful for several classification, such as A-10 "withholding of removal" and A-12 "TPS"





## **USCIS - EAD Codes**

Information for Employers ^ and Employees

Automatic Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Extension

DHS Support of the Enforcement of Labor and Employment Laws

**Employer Information** 

**Employment Authorization** 

VIBE

Employment Authorization in Compelling Circumstances

Options for Nonimmigrant Workers Following Termination of Employment

Report Labor Abuses

**Petition Process Overview** 

Form I-765 Category

Need help? Ask Emma

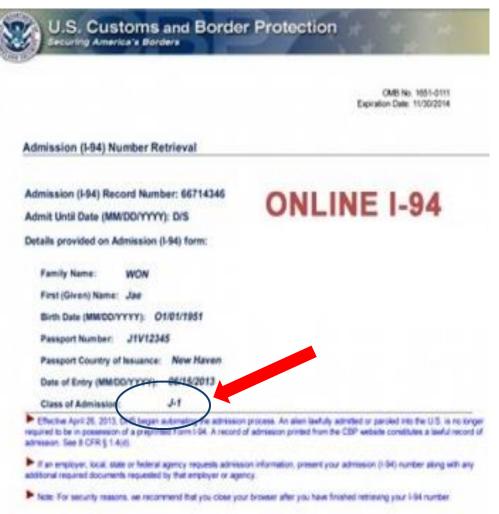
<u>Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization</u>, asks for your eligibility category. It is important that you write the correct eligibility category on your application.

Please see the <u>Form I-765 instructions (PDF, 618.16 KB)</u> for a complete list of eligibility categories. You may also find eligibility categories in <u>section 274a.12</u>, <u>title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations</u>.

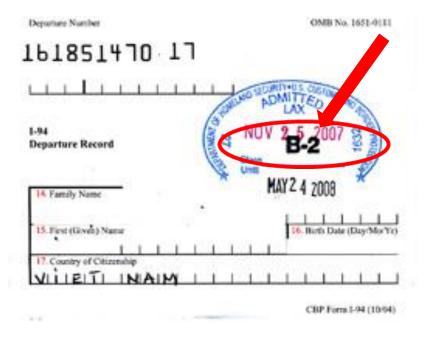
Form I-765 Category	Description
(a)(2)	Lawful temporary resident
(a)(3)	Refugee
(a)(4)	Paroled refugee
(a)(5)	Asylee
(a)(6)	Fiancé(e) (K-1 or K-2 nonimmigrant)
(a)(7)	N-8 or N-9
(a)(8)	Citizen of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, or Palau

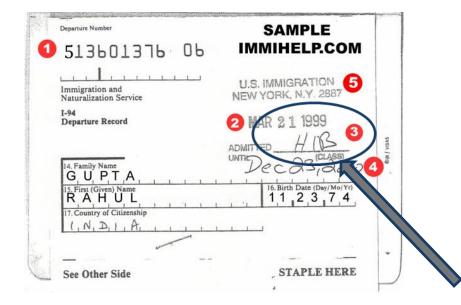
#### **Evidence: I-94 Card**

## **Electronic I-94**



#### **I-94**





94 - Official Website Page 1 of 1



#### Most Recent I-94

Admission (I-94) Record Number : 48662

Most Recent Date of Entry: 2017 July 11

Class of Admission : K2 Admit Until Date : 10/08/2017

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname:

First (Given) Name :

RUOTONG

Birth Date :

December

Passport Number :

E85

Country of Issuance: China

Get Travel History

- ▶ Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or parolled into the U.S. is no longer required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a lawful record of admission. See 3 CFR § 1.4(d).
- ▶ If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission (I-94) number along with any additional required documents requested by that employer or agency.
- Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished retrieving your I-94 number.

COVER No. 1480-0171 Explication Date: CTCT12017

For inquiries or questions regarding your I-94, please click here

Accessibility | Privacy Policy



# Withholding/deferral of removal

- Eligible. Ordered removed, but removal withheld indefinitely for humanitarian reasons.
- Proof of withholding or deferral of removal includes
  - Immigration judge's order or
  - Employment Authorization Document with category A10.

# **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

- Eligible.
- DACA is a special humanitarian category available to "DREAMers" who came to the U.S. before turning 16.
- DACA approval allows student to establish domicile.
   In-state tuition no earlier than a year later.
- Proof of DACA includes I-797 Approval Notice for Form I-821D or EAD with category (c)(33).

### **Evidence: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**

#### I-797 DACA Notice Of Action – Approval Notice



## FINIOS UNIVERD STAVUES DE ANTERICA

RECEIPT NUMBER	7//////////////////////////////////////	CASE TYPE 1821D CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS
RECEIPT DATE August 21, 2015	PRIORITY DATE	APPLICANT
NOTICE DATE October 2, 2015	PAGE 1 of 1	W THEN WAS A STANDING
		Notice Type: Approval Notice Valid from 10/02/2015 to 10/01/2017

Notice of Deferred Action:

This notice is to inform you regarding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services's (USCIS) decision on your Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childnood Arrivals.

USCIS, in the exercise of its prosecutorial discretion, has decided to defer action in your case. Deferred action is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion by USCIS not to pursue the removal of an individual from the United States for a specific period. Deferred action does not confer or alter any immigration status.

Unless terminated, this decision to defer removal action will remain in effect for 2 years from the date of this notice.

This form does not constitute employment authorization, nor may it be used in place of an Employment Authorization Document. The 90-day period for reviewing Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, filed together with Form I-821D begins as of the date of this approval notice. If Form I-765 is granted, you will receive your Employment Authorization Document separately by mail. Subsequent criminal activity after your case has been deferred is likely to result in termination of your deferred action. This notice does not provide permission to travel outside of the United States.

## **DACA: Unique Domicile Issues**

- DACA students' parents are often out of status and cannot establish domicile. Under domicile law, it is presumed that a dependent student shares parents' domicile.
- But the presumption is <u>rebuttable</u>. DACA students came to the U.S. before 16 and have established lives here. Usually enough to rebut presumption. Parents' documents can be useful.
- If DACA expires, student can no longer be considered a Virginia domiciliary. Must show evidence of having filed for an extension.

# **Tuition Equity Provision**

§ 23.1-505.1. Eligibility for in-state tuition and state financial assistance programs.

# Notwithstanding § 23.1-502 or any other provision of law to the contrary, any student who

- (i) attended high school for at least two years in the Commonwealth and either (a) graduated on or after July 1, 2008, from a public or private high school or program of home instruction in the Commonwealth or (b) passed on or after July 1, 2008, a high school equivalency examination approved by the Secretary of Education;
- (ii) has submitted evidence that he or, in the case of a dependent student, at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis has filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns for at least two years prior to the date of registration or enrollment; and
- (iii) registers as an entering student or is enrolled in a public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth, ....

...is eligible for in-state tuition regardless of citizenship or immigration status,

except that students with currently valid visas issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(F), 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), 1101(a)(15)(J) (including only students or trainees), or 1101(a)(15)(M) are not eligible.

All such students shall be afforded the same educational benefits, including access to financial assistance programs administered by the Council, the State Board, or a public institution of higher education, as any other individual who is eligible for in-state tuition pursuant to § 23.1-502.

Information obtained in the implementation of this section shall only be used or disclosed to individuals other than the student for purposes of determining such educational benefits.

#### **High school attendance and completion:**

- <u>attended</u> high school for at least <u>two years</u> in the Commonwealth and either
  - (a) graduated on or after July 1, 2008, from a public or private high school or program of home instruction in the Commonwealth or
  - (b) passed on or after July 1, 2008, a <u>high school</u>
     <u>equivalency examination</u> approved by the Secretary of
     Education;
    - In Virginia, this refers to the General Educational Development (GED) test

#### **High school attendance**

- Proof of Enrollment is verified by either copy of school transcript, letter from school showing dates of attendance, or, in the case of home school students, evidence that the letter of intent has been filed with the local school district for each period of enrollment.
- High school refers to the freshmen (grade 9), sophomore (grade 10), junior (grade 11) and senior (grade 12) years. School attendance during lower grade levels does not count toward the requirement.
- Recognized schools: The student's high school attendance for two years could be in either a Virginia public school or Virginia private school or enrollment in a home school curriculum as recognized by the Virginia public school district superintendent.

#### For minimum of two full years

- The student must demonstrate enrollment into a Virginia high school or combination of Virginia high schools for two full years prior to the date of initial enrollment into a Virginia college. These years need not be successive and may include partial years. Examples include:
  - ✓ Student began enrollment as of first day of classes in fall 2019 and maintained enrollment through graduation in May 2021. The student completed two full years: 2019-20 and 2020-21.
  - ✓ Student began enrollment as of January 2019 and maintained enrollment in any Virginia school through December 2020. The student completed two full years: half year of January to May 2019, full year of 2019-20, and additional half year August to December 2020.
  - ✓ Student completed the full 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2018-19 in Virginia and then moved out of state. Student returned to complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2020-21. Student completed two full years of high school in Virginia.
  - ✓ Student began enrollment in October 2020 and maintained enrollment through May 2021. Student did not complete the full two years of enrollment.

#### **High school completion**

- Demonstrate high school completion in Virginia
  - On or after July 1, 2008
  - Graduation from a Virginia public high school or private high school
  - Passed a general equivalency exam (GED) approved by the Virginia Department of Education or
  - Completed home school instruction (self certified).

#### Timing of completion

## **Individual reviewed for filing Taxes**

• (ii) has submitted evidence that he or, in the case of a dependent student, at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis has filed, unless exempted by state law, Virginia income tax returns for at least two years prior to the date of registration or enrollment; and

#### **Individual filing state income taxes:**

- An independent student or emancipated minor or
- For a dependent student, the parent (biological, adoptive or step) or guardian (court ordered legal guardianship or custody) residing with the dependent student or claiming the student as a dependent for tax purposes or

#### In loco parentis

- o In <u>absence</u> of one of the above, a person standing "**In loco parentis**" of a dependent student and residing with the student.
  - In loco parentis (borrowing from FMLA)
    - Persons who are *in loco parentis* include those with day-to-day responsibilities to care for or provide substantial financial support for the student. Means "in place of a parent," or "instead of a parent," refers to situations in which someone other than a biological parent takes on the role of parent to a dependent child without formally adopting the child.
    - The "in loco parentis" relationship should be scrutinized to verify that the individual is residing with the student and acting in place (not on behalf) of a parent.
    - -Is an individual person. For purposes of this provision, cannot be an organization, agency or institution.

#### **Exemptions for filing taxes:**

Exemptions in law are found in the Code of Virginia, § 58.1-321.

- Valid state taxation exemptions are limited to income thresholds of:
  - \$11,950 for individuals single or married filing separately, or current threshold as updated
  - \$23,900 for married filing jointly, or current threshold as updated.
    - Income of individuals claiming an exemption from filing may be verified by collecting federal tax form, W2s, bank statements, pay stubs, etc.
- Active duty members stationed in Virginia

#### **Exemptions continued:**

- Individuals with taxable earnings in another state cannot claim an exemption based on the income not having been earned in the Commonwealth.
  - If the parent/guardian/in loco parentis claims to not have earned enough income to meet the Virginia filing requirement, the institution may verify Virginia residency (not domicile) or request a copy of a federal tax return.
- Individuals not required to pay state taxes due to a current valid **federal treaty** retain eligibility under this provision (not a "state" exemption)
  - The burden of proof falls on the individual to demonstrate eligibility for such exemption, including verification that the eligible immigration status is current and valid and that an existing treaty exempts such individuals from taxation in the United States.

- ...is eligible for in-state tuition regardless of citizenship or immigration status,
- except that students with currently valid visas issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(F), 1101(a)(15)(H)(iii), 1101(a)(15)(J) (including only students or trainees), or 1101(a)(15)(M) are not eligible.

#### **Legal status**

- Eligibility is generally not dependent upon a person's citizenship or immigration status, or the lack thereof
  - Specific language in the statute excludes from eligibility students in the following visa categories:
    - Individuals with a current valid F, H3, J, or M visas as of the first day of enrollment
    - Individuals who, subsequent to enrollment, obtain a valid F, J, M, H3 visa.
    - The language also excludes any derivatives dependents - of these visas.
  - The status of the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis filing Virginia income taxes for two years prior to the student's enrollment is immaterial and not restricted.

• All such students shall be afforded the same educational benefits, including access to financial assistance programs administered by the Council, the State Board, or a public institution of higher education, as any other individual who is eligible for in-state tuition pursuant to § 23.1-502.

- Similar to "deemed as domiciled," students qualifying under the Tuition Equity provision are eligible to be considered for any program requiring Virginia domicile.
  - In-state tuition
  - State financial aid (including the Tuition Assistance Grant program)
  - Any other institutional program reserved for or showing preference for Virginia domiciled residents.

 Information obtained in the implementation of this subdivision shall only be used or disclosed to individuals other than the student for purposes of determining in-state tuition eligibility."

#### **Protection of student information**

- Institutions should gather and retain only the minimum information needed to verify eligibility under this provision.
- Information gathered under this provision
  - Is to be used solely for determining eligibility for in-state tuition under this provision.
  - May not be made available to any other person, including employees of the institution, other than the student and institutional staff necessary for administration of in-state tuition eligibility.
  - Any external subpoena or FOIA for such information should be reported to the institutional counsel before fulfilling the request.

#### **Administrative guidance:**

- Students should not be *required* to complete the domicile review process prior to consideration under this provision.
- Students are not required to provide a reason for seeking eligibility for in-state tuition under this provision rather than the domicile review process.
- This provision does not require or permit any retroactive adjustment from out-of-state to in-state tuition for any term beginning prior to July 1, 2020.

- As of 2022-23, Tuition Equity students can be considered for state financial aid.
- Since undocumented students cannot complete the federal FAFSA, SCHEV has developed an on-line application: go to www.VASAapp.org for more information.
- This application is only able to determine the family's ability to pay, Expected Family Contribution. <u>It is not be usable</u> to determine whether a student meets the criteria for the Tuition Equity provision.

Additional guidance can be found within

**ADDENDUM C: Summary of In-State or Reduced Tuition Provisions** 

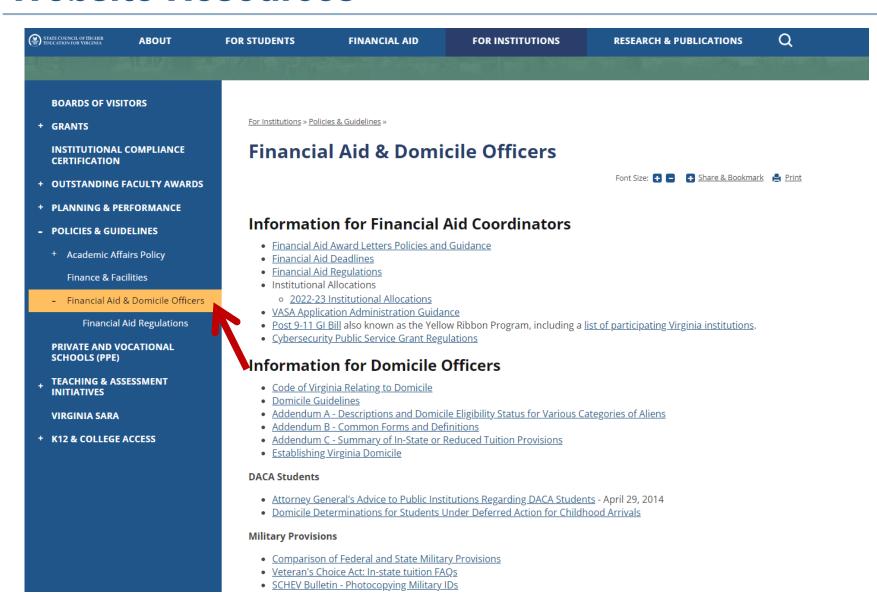
#### **Website Resources**

 Domicile information at: "For Institutions" then "Policies and Guidelines" then "Financial Aid and Domicile Officers"

www.schev.edu/institutions/policies-guidelines/financial-aid-domicile-officers



#### **Website Resources**



#### **Website Resources**

#### Domicile Officer's Web Resources

NOTE: SCHEV provides the following websites for your information and/or additional research.

#### Descriptions of resident eligibility and responsibility under other state offices

- <u>Driver's License Eligibility Requirements</u> (Virginia Dept. of Motor Vehicles)
- Residency Status Definitions (Virginia Dept. of Taxation)
- Registering to Vote (Virginia State Board of Elections)

#### Resources pertaining to non-immigrant students

- <u>US Citizenship and Immigration Services</u> (includes descriptions)
- 2017-18 Federal Student Financial Aid Handbook (contains examples of immigration documentation)
- US Code Title 8 Chapter 14 Section 1623 (undocumented aliens not eligible for educational benefits based on domicile)
- Office of the Attorney General's Immigration Law Compliance Update Memorandum 2002
- What the codes mean on an Employment Authorization Document (EAD or "work authorization card")
- Check status of a pending case (must have a case receipt number)
- Nonimmigrant classifications
- Special instructions for B-1/B-2 visitors who want to enroll in school

## **Questions?**

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- Domicile Officers: <a href="www.schev.edu/institutions/policies-guidelines/financial-aid-domicile-officers">www.schev.edu/institutions/policies-guidelines/financial-aid-domicile-officers</a>
- Students/Families: <a href="https://www.schev.edu/domicileguidelines">www.schev.edu/domicileguidelines</a>