

Animo Venice Charter High School

# Supporting Undocumented Students

Kevin Garcia – UCLA PLI Leadership Project  
March 6<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> 2013



# KWL Activity

- Take 5 minutes to fill out the chart by listing what you know about undocumented students and what you would like to know under each of the areas.
- Work with a colleague next to you; we will share some responses.



# Undocumented Student - Defined

- A student who is not a US citizen or legal permanent resident and who does not currently possess a green card, visa, or other legal documentation is considered an undocumented student.

# FERPA

- Undocumented students are protected under the federal law regarding student records.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that educational student records be kept confidential. Information that may be in school records regarding a student's undocumented status must be kept confidential.

A stylized illustration of a bright yellow sun with rays, partially obscured by white and light blue clouds, set against a light blue background. A thick blue line runs diagonally across the scene, passing behind the text.

# Federal DREAM Act

- **Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors is an American legislative proposal first introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2001.**
- **It has been re-introduced several times, but not passed.**

# AB 540

- **Assembly Bill 540 is a California law that allows undocumented students who meet specified requirements to pay in-state fees (tuition) for California's public colleges and universities.**

A stylized illustration of a bright yellow sun with rays, partially obscured by white and light blue clouds. The background is a light blue gradient with a darker blue diagonal line.

# California Dream Act – AB 130 & 131

- AB 130 allows students that meet the in-state tuition requirements to apply for and receive scholarships derived from non-state funds.
- AB 131 allows students that meet the in-state tuition requirements to apply and receive financial aid at California public colleges and universities.

# Deferred Action

- **June 15<sup>th</sup> – Homeland Security announced that effective immediately, certain young people who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria will be considered for relief from removal from the country or from entering into removal proceedings.**

- **Eligibility**

**See: <http://www.dhs.gov/eligibility-deferred-action>**



# Facts about undocumented students

- 12 million people in the US are undocumented
- Estimated 1.8 million in K-12
- 500,000 Students 9-12
- 65,000 Graduate High School (13% graduate high school)
- 5,000 Pursue Higher Ed (1% pursue higher education)
- 250-500 graduate from college (5%-10% graduate from college)

# In California

- California is home to the largest undocumented student population in the US (40%)
- In 2004, 17 California high school Valedictorians were undocumented.

~ Pew Hispanic Center: [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

# Similar, yet different

## Similar to Peers

- Right to K-12 education in U.S.
- Often first in family to attend college
- Language barriers
- Historical difficulties in accessing higher education

## Unique Challenges

- Fear of deportation
- Not eligible for legal employment
- Not eligible to obtain a driver's license
- Not eligible for Federal Financial Aid

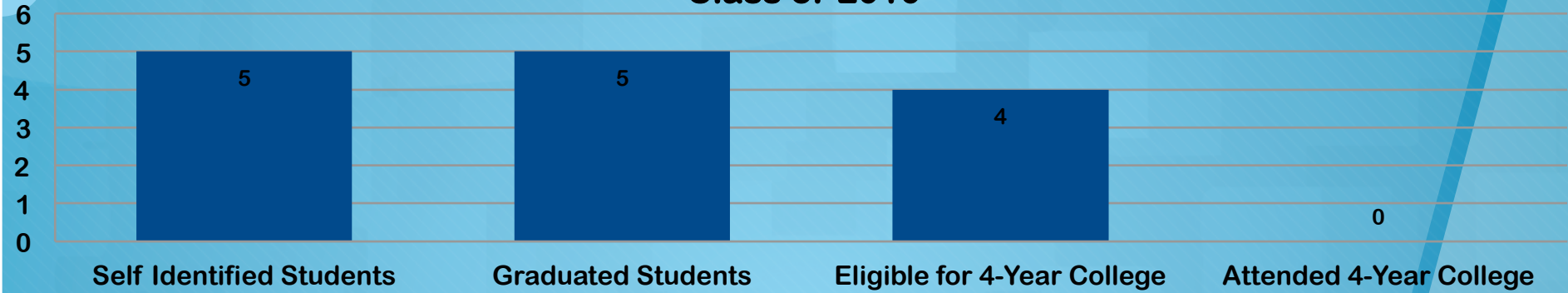
A stylized illustration of a bright yellow sun with rays, partially obscured by white and light blue clouds, set against a light blue background. The sun is positioned in the upper left quadrant, and the clouds are scattered across the top and right sides of the frame.

# At Animo Venice

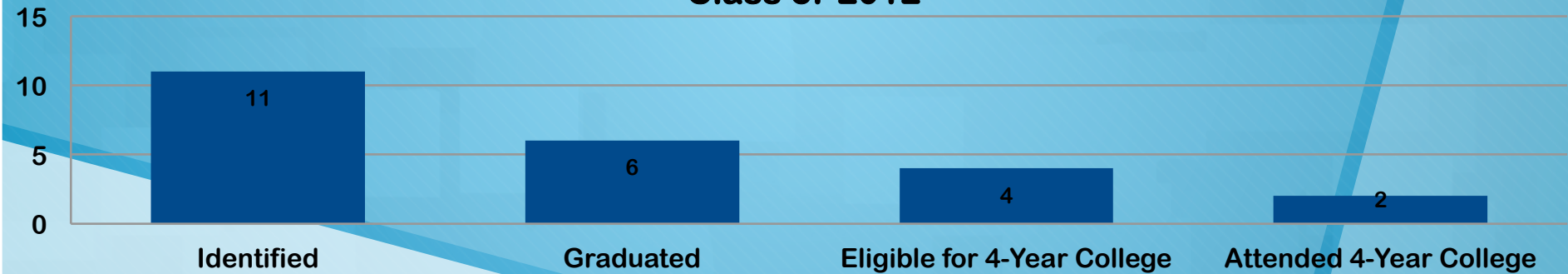
- About 30 of Mr. Garcia's students have self-identified as undocumented (current grades 9 and 11)
- Representative of entire student population academically
- Historically have had extremely low four-year college attendance rates
- High occurrence of mental health counseling referrals
- Unknowledgeable / uncomfortable staff
- Limited resources

# Student Data

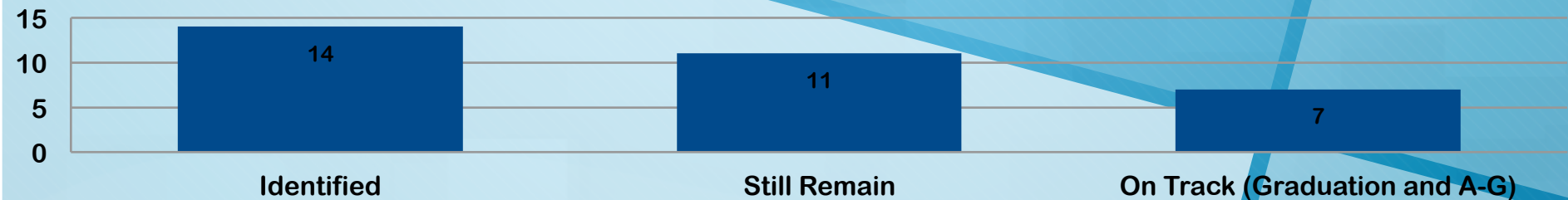
## Class of 2010



## Class of 2012

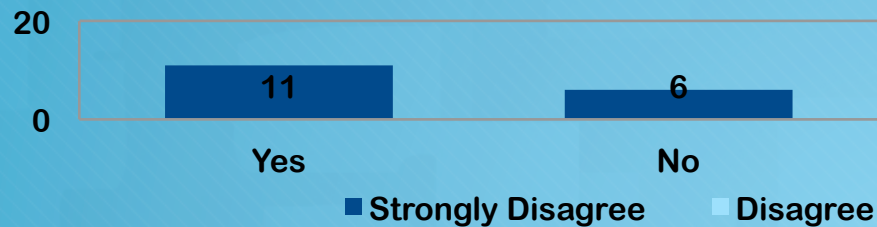


## Class of 2014

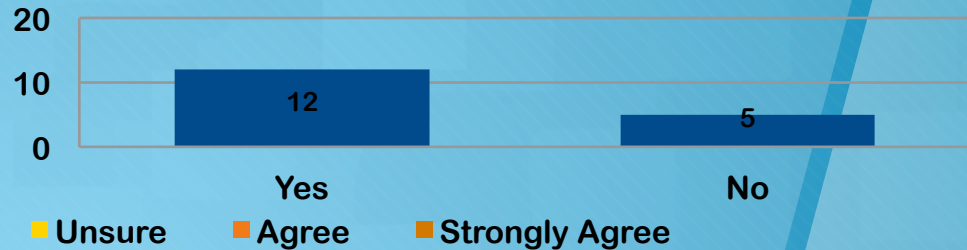


# Staff Survey Data

1. Have any of your students confided in you and informed you of their undocumented status?



2. Do you have any previous experience working with undocumented students?



3. Undocumented students face unique educational barriers because of their status.



4. I am knowledgeable of laws and policies pertaining specifically to undocumented students.



5. I am comfortable in my ability to assist undocumented students with their unique needs.



6. I am knowledgeable of resources and opportunities specifically for undocumented students.

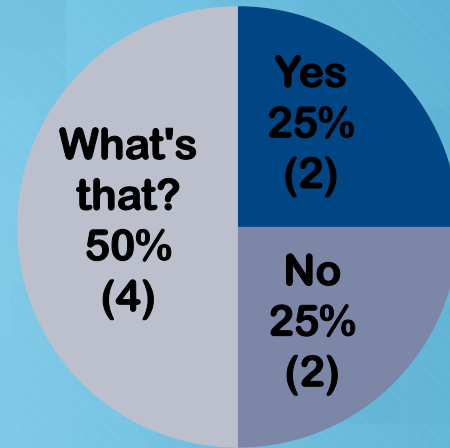
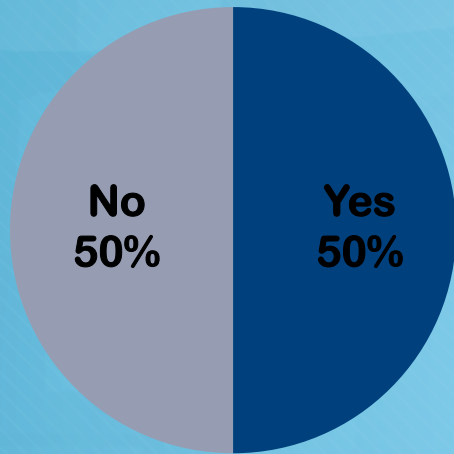


*"I would love to support my students but I feel uncomfortable in relaying the information. I will definitely assist a student if I knew exactly what to do!"*

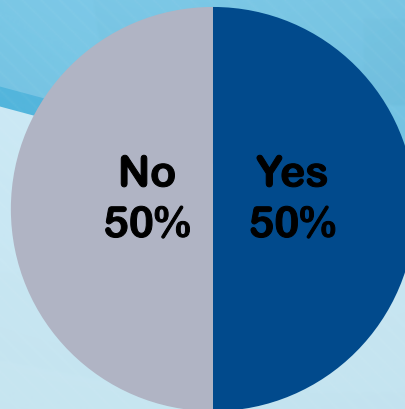
*"I am knowledgeable about general laws & policies, but not necessarily specific opportunities available for undocumented students."*

# Student Data

1. Do you know what AB 540 means?    2. Have you applied for Deferred Action?



3. Other than your counselor, do any of your teachers know that you are undocumented?



# Student Data

■ Strongly Disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Unsure   ■ Agree   ■ Strongly Agree

4. I will face unique educational barriers because of my immigration status



5. I am familiar with laws or policies that relate specifically to undocumented students



6. I feel that my teachers can help me with my unique needs



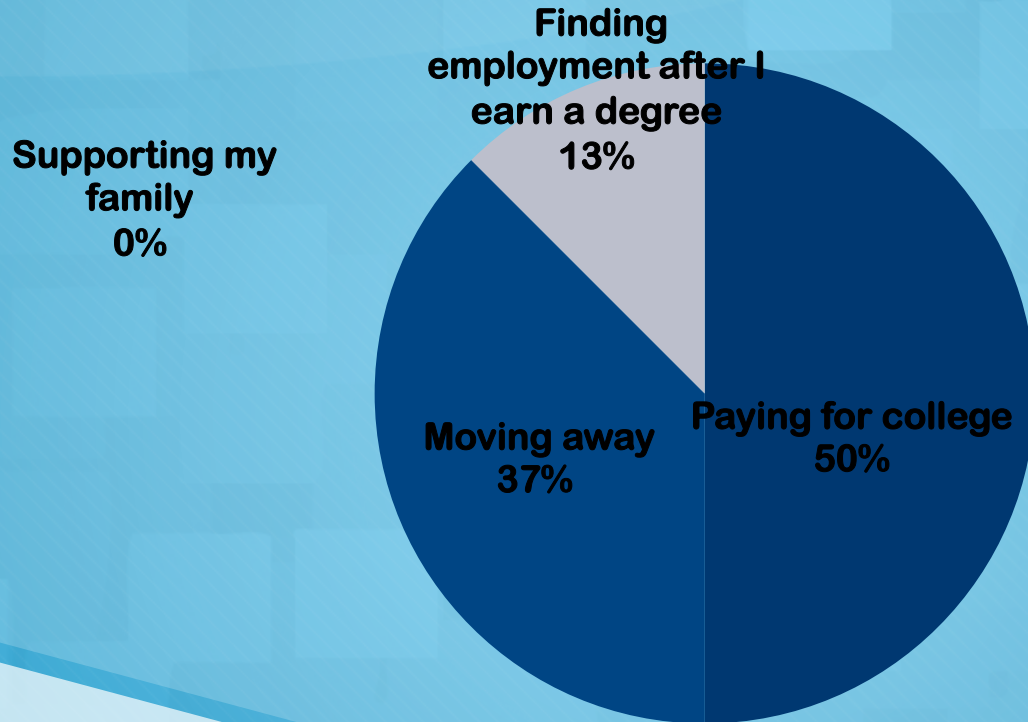
7. I am aware of resources and opportunities specifically for undocumented students





# Student Data

My biggest fear about attending college is:



What motivates you to do well in school?

- To have a good future/career*
- Parents came here for opportunity*
- Help my parents after I graduate*

# Additional Challenges

- **Lack of support to meet the specific needs of undocumented students**
  - **Difficult to identify**
  - **Changing policies / Uncertain political climate**
  - **Student/parent hesitancy to discuss status**
  - **Educator discomfort / lack of knowledge**
  - **Limited resources and opportunities**
  - **Limited opportunities to target these students without victimization**



# Improvement Plan

- Create club on campus that will provide support and culture of care / safe space.
- Resources and supports to help navigate high school and the road to college and/or employment.
  - Identification
  - Education (of students, parents, and staff)
  - Networking
  - Advocating

# Some Resources

- Educators for Fair Consideration <http://www.e4fc.org/>
- DreamActivist.org
- LA Cash for College - [http://www.lacashforcollege.org/getinvolved/getinvolved\\_files/AB540Guide.pdf](http://www.lacashforcollege.org/getinvolved/getinvolved_files/AB540Guide.pdf)
- USC Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, now known as the Center for Higher Education  
*The College & Financial Aid Guide for: AB540 Undocumented Immigrant Students*  
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/pdf/AB%20540%20final.pdf>



# E4FC Tips

1. Provide Hope and Encouragement
2. Create a Safe Space
3. Know Relevant Policies & Legislation
4. Find Scholarships
5. Build Support Network
6. Identify Role Models
7. Involve Parents
8. Access Reputable Legal Information & Assistance
9. Instill Agency
10. Be There

# KW...L

- What did you learn?
- Take two minutes to discuss with an elbow partner things you learned and be prepared to share.



6TH ANNUAL  
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# AWAKEN:

THE DREAM IS YET TO COME

• SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013 •



IDEAS at UCLA

RSVP AT [WWW.IDEASLA.ORG](http://WWW.IDEASLA.ORG)

**Questions?**





Thank You!

EQUAL RIGHTS  
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JUSTICE  
SOLIDARITY  
COMUNIDAD  
FAMILIA  
HOPE  
RESPECT  
ACTION  
EDUCACION

RESPECT  
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