



July 30, 2020

Given HECA's mission to work towards equity and access to higher education, the HECA Government Relations and Advocacy committee (GRAC) calls your attention to the impact of the census on public school funding.

In 1982, the US Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v Doe* that public schools must educate all students, regardless of immigration status. It said, "education has a fundamental role in maintaining the fabric of our society" and "provides the basic tools by which individuals might lead economically productive lives to the benefit of us all." In addition, the children of undocumented immigrants "can affect neither their parents' conduct nor their own status," and "directing the onus of a parent's misconduct against his children does not comport with fundamental conceptions of justice."

Census data is used to allocate federal funding to schools and many other community organizations. Recently, the Trump administration issued a memorandum that prohibits the US Census Bureau from counting undocumented individuals during this year's census.

In actual fact, there is no citizen question on this year's census. It was blocked by the Supreme Court last July. Accurate census data is vital to ensure communities and schools receive the funding they need to educate our students. Your Equity and Access committee encourages you to complete the census and urge the families you work with to do the same. In fact, it's the law!