

Resolution Number: 302-2026

Title: Recognizing the Value of AS/IDP Students in ASDA Membership

Reference Committee Assignment: Membership & Governance

Sponsor(s): Utsavi Kapadia, District 1 Advanced Standing Co-Chair, Tufts 2027

Bharadwaj Narayan Kola, Tufts 2027

Cornel Cazacu, District 1 Advanced Standing Co-Chair, BU 2026

Shivam Patel, Temple CE Chair, Temple 2027

Alisha Madan, Penn Legislative Liaison, UPenn 2027

Priyal Patel, University of Michigan 2027

Reecha Sharma, UT San Antonio 2026

Sakshi Sharma, UCSF 2026

Hardi Thacker, District 9 Advanced Standing Chair, UMKC 2026

Dhara Parikh, UIC 2026

Divya Jahagirdar, NYU 2028

Financial Impact: None

Board of Trustees Comments: Although the Board appreciates the resolution submitted and recognizes the importance of acknowledging the experiences of AS/IDP students, the Board affirms that ASDA's E-4 Sensitivity to Diversity Policy already encompasses and supports AS/IDP students in alignment with ASDA's mission. ASDA remains committed to recognizing, supporting, and advocating for dental students from all backgrounds, while continuing to uphold the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion outlined in E-4. The Board recommends a no vote.

Board Vote: Unanimous

Summary of Vote: Nothing to report as the vote was unanimous.

Reference Committee Comments:

Background:

Advanced Standing (AS) and International Dentist Program (IDP) students are a growing and noticeable part of the U.S. dental student population. In the 2024-25 academic year, around 915 graduates from international dental schools were admitted to U.S. dental schools through advanced standing pathways. Non-resident aliens made up a significant portion of first-year (3.8%) and graduating classes (6.7%) [1].

Foreign-trained dentists and IDP students often face educational, clinical, and logistical challenges that differ from those in traditional DDS/DMD programs. They need to navigate specialized admissions processes, adjust to U.S. clinical expectations, and handle the academic

45 and professional transitions that come with re-entering dental education [2]. Existing research
46 also highlights several systemic barriers for immigrant health professionals. These include
47 limited access to resources, financial and language challenges, complicated credentialing
48 requirements, and difficulties reintegrating into professional practice [3].

49
50 As mentioned in previous ASDA resolutions, ASDA understands the importance of student
51 representation in educational policy and governance. Current policy supports student
52 participation on committees that affect dental education and professional training [4].;
53 therefore, be it

54 55 **RESOLUTION**

56
57 **Resolved,** that ASDA adopt the following policy in the Current Statements of Policy or Position:
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59 The American Student Dental Association recognizes the value of Advanced Standing and
60 International Dentist Program students as integral contributors to dental education, systems-
61 based learning, credential recognition discussions, and national governance matters.

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63 The American Student Dental Association recognizes the diverse training experiences and
64 regulatory knowledge of students in Advanced Standing and International Dentist Programs as
65 important assets to dental education, systems-based learning, workforce planning, credential
66 recognition discussions, and information national policy deliberations related to workforce
67 development, educational reform, and dental governance.