

# Supreme Court will hear case on education for illegal aliens

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to resolve the touchy question of whether states must provide free public education to the children of illegal aliens.

The justices will hear arguments this fall by Texas that its school districts should be permitted to demand tuition payments from children who are not U.S. citizens or legally admitted aliens.

Lower courts have struck down the tuition requirement on grounds it violates the constitutional promise of equal protection under the law.

The case is of interest to states confronted by rising educational costs and increasing numbers of illegal aliens.

Peter Roos, a lawyer for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said Texas is the only state with such a tuition rule. He said other states with many illegal aliens, such as California and New York, have not excluded their children from school.

There are no firm estimates of how many children of illegal aliens are in the United States. An Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman said the total is probably "a relatively small percentage" of the estimated 3 million to 6 million illegals in the country.

Roos agreed, noting, "Most of the undocumented aliens are young, single males who come as workers and relatively few have families."

The tuition charge was established after school districts near the Mexican border complained that educating the illegal alien children would "dilute the quality of education for all students."

However, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has issued an injunction requiring schools to enroll such children unless the school can show admitting them would harm the education of other students.

The case, originally brought on behalf of undocumented alien children, challenges a 1975 Texas law limiting free schooling to children who are U.S. citizens or legally admitted aliens.

The Tyler, Texas school district decided to charge a \$1,000 yearly tuition for each student not covered by the law.

A federal district court held the requirement unconstitutional and the 5th Circuit agreed.



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Photo by Greg Gammon

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## No problems foreseen in ZIP change

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Postal Service will begin phasing in the controversial nine-digit ZIP code next month or early July, and Postmaster General William F. Bolger says he doesn't expect any major problems.

Bolger said he expects the new, longer ZIP code to be used primarily by business mailers. The Postal Service will begin phasing in the code at the end of June or beginning of July, providing businesses with computerized tapes showing the new ZIP codes for city blocks nationwide.

Individuals will be notified of their new codes — four digits added to the current ZIP — at the end of this year or beginning of 1982 rather than October, as had been planned.

"I don't expect problems with ZIP plus 4 over the next few years," said Bolger.

The cost to large volume mailers of converting their mailing lists is estimated at 2 cents per address. But they will be able to take advantage of financial incentives for using the nine-digit ZIP, Bolger said.

Unlike the five-digit ZIP first announced in 1963, Bolger doesn't expect the nine-digit code to take several years to come into use.

That is, unless Congress stops it. There are several bills on Capitol Hill to prohibit the use of the longer code.

"The people know that zipped and unzipped mail get different levels of service," observed Sen. Roger Jepsen, R-Iowa, at a recent hearing.

The big advantage of the new ZIP, Bolger said, is the estimated \$800 million it will save when fully operational by permitting more automation that will keep down the size of the Postal Service work force, its largest cost.

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