New Americans in the Classroom: Resources for Supporting Students from Refugee & Immigrant Backgrounds

To schedule a workshop, contact:

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We Love Educators!

Apps, AI and Other Useful Tools

- AI for Educators:
  - Aligning AI for Multilingual Learners: Integrating the WIDA Standards Framework into Prompts (Webinar)

Find this handout online at: https://sarajskinner.wixsite.com/sara-skinner/resources

- [ChatGPT](#) - Educators use it for translating, embedding key word supports, simplifying, summarizing, and more.
- [Diffit for Teachers](#) - site that uses AI to differentiate a lesson into different grade levels and languages. This [video](#) explains how to use it for multilingual learners.
- [Magic School.](#)
- To add images to a text, download the [SlidesAI](#) extension to Google Slides, and input your text.
- To create images, Microsoft [Free AI Image Generator](#).
- [Padlet](#) (and Sandbox) includes AI-generated images.
- Suggestions on [how to write AI prompts to create images](#).
- Pictures to help with communicating with newcomers:
  - [Lanyard Visual Cue Cards](#) - Teachers Pay Teachers (free printable boardmaker pics)
  - "[Core First Communication Books](#)" (by Tobii Dynavox, handouts with [picture communication symbols](#) that are free to download and print.) Specific communication boards for Spanish, [Ukrainian](#), and other languages.
  - [Red/Green "I need help" Cards](#) (jpegs as well as a link to Canva if you need to add other languages).
- [Multilingual Personal Dictionary](#) Creator - Translates words into many languages, with an definition, pronunciation & image. This [video](#) explains how to use it.
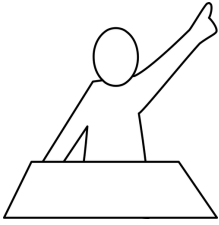
Creating Welcoming Schools & Engaging with Families

- New York's Welcome to Our Schools has many resources about welcoming refugee students, including brochures for Teachers, Peer Mentors, Counselors, Administrators , and Parents (in Arabic, Farsi, Karen, Nepali, and Spanish).
- English Learner Portal: Tips for Welcoming Newcomers, 9-minute video & checklist to orienting immigrant families, one-pager and many free Resources, (especially if you sign up for their email list).
- Edutopia's 5 tips for Culturally Responsive Family Engagement in Schools
- Switchboard: Searchable library of guides and webinars about refugees, including many topics for educators. Their blog post, How Schools Can Support Newcomer Youth: Ten Innovative Practices has sections for administrators, counselors and teachers. See also the last half of their webinar, Increasing Family Engagement within Schools to Support Refugee Students.
- The ESC of Central Ohio has Multilingual Orientation Videos for students and families (in Dari, Ukrainian, Spanish, and English) on topics such as "Communicating with Schools" and "Observing Cultural Customs at School."
- "Reflections from an Afghan American Counselor: Building Bridges with Migrant Students"
- Immigrant Connections has a blog, webinars and a resource list about immigrant students and family engagement.
- National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition's Family Toolkit has advice to families about the US School System and their students' rights as an English Learner (in English, Arabic, Spanish and Chinese). Also Toolkits for schools on how to fulfill their legal obligations to English Learners.
- Reimagining Migration's Newcomer Kit (list of resources for newcomer intake and ongoing community building)
- "A World Unknown: Immigrant Parent Experiences with the School System" (9-Minute video with parents explaining school differences)
- For notes home: template that says "This is important" in many languages. To make one, cut the strips of the languages your students speak.
- Spreadsheet for tracking new students, assigning student mentors and parent liaisons (created by Taft Elementary to support their parent Cultural Liaison program)
- Family Strengthening (many resources, including "Raising Children in a New Country" Handbooks in many languages) - Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services

*Available at the Boise Public Library and via interlibrary loan throughout the Treasure Valley.

- [Family Engagement Data](#) (see especially slides 15-20 for continuum of low-impact to high-impact activities; not specific to immigrant families) - Flamboyan Foundation
- [Family Engagement with Refugee Populations](#) (webinar, see especially the 9 Family Engagement Models, timestamp 0:29:00 to 1:10:00) - BRYCS
- Pyramid - [Four Stages of Immigrant Parent Involvement in Schools](#) (graphic and brief explanation of each)

Teaching Immigrants & Multilingual Learners

- [Ideas & Examples from Elementary Educators](#) (slides with examples from Idaho educators, collected by Sara Skinner Associates)
- [Ideas & Examples from Secondary Educators](#) (slides with examples from Idaho educators, collected by Sara Skinner Associates)
- [English Learner Portal](#): Free [Resource Collections](#) and free [Webinars](#), including this (8-minute video plus blog post) on [How can you fairly grade and assess English Learners?](#)
  - [Elementary](#) and [Secondary](#) Newcomer Notebook Resource (key images & sentence frames for the first days in school)
- "Using a Strengths-Based Approach with ELs: [Supporting Students Living with Trauma](#), Violence and Chronic Stress" (Short article)
- [Teaching Refugees, Unaccompanied Minors](#) by [The Immigrant Learning Center Educator Resource Hub](#) (Lesson plans, webinars, more)
- ["The Power of Relationships in Schools"](#) (4-minute video for teachers)
- [Humanizing Education for Immigrant Youth: 20 Strategies for the Classroom and Beyond](#) (Non-Fiction book) by Monisha Bajaj*
- [Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain](#) (Non-Fiction book) by Zaretta Hammond
- [Open Educational Resources](#): [Childhood Education International](#) (Courses and manuals for working with refugee or displaced learners; Arabic, English, French, Kiswahili, Spanish, and Ukrainian)
- "[Newcomer Toolkit](#)" - US Dept. of Education (Classroom tools, school-wide tools, subject-specific teaching strategies, ideas for partnering with families, and more).
- "10 Ways Teachers Can [Support Third Culture Kids](#)" (Blog post)
- "The Continuum of Engagement" (Info-graphic) in [cartoon](#) or [photo](#) versions
- [Messy Objective](#) - This video by [English Learner Portal](#) is a good example of "engineering the text."
- [Sketchnoting with Students: The Why and the How](#) (Blog post, Siedlitz Education)
- [Fun Infographics for Teachers of Multilingual Learners](#) - Valentina ESL
- [English Learners Writing in Content-Area Classes](#) (Blog post; explains how to use "Exit Tickets")
- [Where to Find Diverse Books](#) - find books with refugee/immigrant characters, bilingual books, and books in other languages
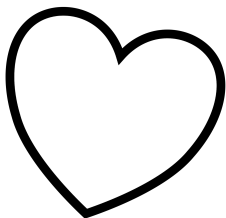- [Teaching Math to English Learners](#) by Adrian Mendoza

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Challenging Behavior

- See also Resources for Trauma & Healing, including the Community Resiliency Model Workshop Video
- PBIS World (free website; click on a behavior for a list of suggested approaches)
- Functions of Behavior (3-page document)
- Zones of Regulation (website)
- Activity-Matching-Regulation-Gear One (worksheet for students to match the feeling with a way to regulate)

Teaching Other Students about Refugees

- "Teaching About Refugees" - UN High Commission for Refugees (curricula with videos, activities, etc. for specific ages)
- Their Story Is Our Story (free lesson plans for elementary, middle and secondary)
- Immigrant Learning Center's Teaching U.S. Immigration series includes curriculum on Syrian refugees and more; see also their "Elevating Immigrant Stories" webinar and included resource list.

We Love Educators!

- "All Because of You" - Music video from "The One Who Sings" (formerly Zolani Mahola)

This handout was created in collaboration with Glocal Community Partners.
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