Meeting the Needs of Students with Interrupted Formal Education & Refugee Backgrounds

March 20, 2013
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Fairfax County Public Schools
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REFUGEE CHILDREN AND THE U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ORR Presentation to Department of Education Title III Directors

March 20, 2013

Overview
1. Office of Refugee Resettlement
2. ORR Populations
3. Refugee Children
4. Refugee School Impact Grant
5. Other Resources

What Populations Does ORR Serve?
- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Certain Amerasians admitted as immigrants from Vietnam
- Special Immigrant Visa Holders from Iraq and Afghanistan
- Certified Victims of Human Trafficking
- Unaccompanied Alien Children

The Office of Refugee Resettlement

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Road to Citizenship

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program
ORR Caseload Projection for FY 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Status</th>
<th>Total Projected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylees</td>
<td>28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban/Haitian Entrants</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of Human Trafficking</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIV)</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied Alien Children</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total projected ORR caseload for FY 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unaccompanied Alien Children

Historical Arrival Patterns

What Countries are Represented?

ORR Total Children Arrivals (5-18 years old)
FY 2010 - 2012

FY 11 – Top 5 countries
Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG)

**Objectives:**

- Ensure academic success and successful school integration
- Strengthen knowledge and skills of parents & school communities to help refugee school children

**General Info:**

- $15 million to 39 states
- Current 2-year funding cycle (8/15/2012 - 8/15/2014)
- States sub-grant to schools and resettlement agencies

**Target Population:**

- 5–18 (21) years old going to elementary and secondary schools
- Newly arrived refugees &
- Refugee children who have been here for 3 years or less but have some academic challenges

Who Are Refugee Children?

© UNHCR/B. Heger
**RSIG: Allowable Activities**
- English as a second language instruction
- After school and summer programs
- Parental involvement programs
- Interpreter services
- Bilingual/Bicultural counselors and aides
- Tutoring
- School liaisons
- Mentoring

**Indicators to Measure Students’ Success**
- High classroom attendance rate
- Improved academic performance
- Full school participation
- Development of leadership skills

**RSIG: Good Practices**
- Schools/School Districts partnering with local community organizations
- Programs focused on establishing the connection between parent-child, parent-school and school-community
- Professional development for school and participating community partners
- Partnerships capable of garnering non-ORR funding, volunteers or support
- Proper data collection and documentation

**Can Refugee Children Access Mainstream Services?**
Yes, in the same ways as U.S. born children
- Department of Health and Human Services
  - Medicaid; State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Department of Education
  - Student Loans; Pell Grants
- Department of Agriculture
  - National School Lunch Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps)
- Social Security Administration
  - SSI

**ORR Website**
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/

**ORR Stakeholders/Network**
- Quarterly Stakeholders’ Meetings
- Ethnic Community Based Organizations
- ICF International (ORR Technical Assistance Provider) http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resources/tech_assist_providers.htm
- Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services (BRYCS)
  - http://www.brycs.org/
  - Educational toolkits, best practices, listserv
Meeting the Needs of Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) and Refugee Backgrounds

Teddi Predaris
Director, Office of Language Acquisition and Title I
Fairfax County Public Schools
Fairfax, Virginia
March 20, 2013

Fairfax County Public Schools
Fairfax, Virginia

• 11th largest school division in USA
• 400 square miles
• 196 schools
• Students from 200 countries
• Over 160 language groups represented

FCPS Top Ten Language Groups 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percent of Total Language Minority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Spanish</td>
<td>34,252</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Korean</td>
<td>6,084</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Arabic</td>
<td>5,218</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Vietnamese</td>
<td>5,071</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Chinese/Mandarin</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Urdu</td>
<td>3,341</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Farsi/Persian</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Amharic</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Telugu</td>
<td>1,545</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Hindi</td>
<td>1,505</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>16,693</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Resources

• The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
  http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c1e8.html#

• Center for Applied Linguistics
  http://www.cal.org/index.html
  - Cultural Orientation Resource Center:
    http://www.culturalorientation.net/

• Refugee Processing Center
  http://www.wrapsnet.org/

Contact Information

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Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Belief Statements

- An educated citizenry is critical to sustaining our economy and our system of self-governance.
- Our diversity creates resilient, open, and innovative citizens of the global community.

FCPS Vision Statements

- FCPS values its diversity and acknowledges that all people contribute to the well-being of the community.
- FCPS measures academic progress to ensure that all students, regardless of race, poverty, language, or disability, will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for college and/or employment.

FCPS Student Achievement Goals (excerpts)

- 1.1 All students will achieve their full academic potential.
- 1.2 Students will learn to communicate in at least two languages.
- 1.4 Students will learn to understand the interrelationship and interdependence of the countries and cultures of the world.

FCPS Focus 2012-13 & Beyond

- In FCPS, all schools will build professional learning communities that employ best practices to raise the bar for all students and close the achievement gap.

Fairfax County Public Schools Goals

- All students shall reach their full academic potential and graduate high school

- To do this, programs must be developed and modified to meet evolving needs of changing demographics of student population

Registration & Entry Assessment

- All language minority students and families register with bilingual registrars at one of three sites
- Students’ English language proficiency (ELP) assessed with a World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) to determine ELP level
- Students’ transcripts, records, educational history, and assessment scores reviewed together to make programmatic recommendations to families
Placement Options for SIFE

- Base Middle or High Schools
- Transitional ESOL High School Program
- Alternative High Schools/Adult High School

Base Middle and High Schools
- Content-based ESOL (every school)
- Academic language taught through content areas with focus on learning grade level standards
- Online summer ESOL courses
- ESOL teachers receive professional development on differentiating instruction for students developing literacy
- Free public education for ELs through age 22

Transitional ESOL High School Program
- Services for students aged 18+
- Late afternoon and evening classes
- ELP Level 1 and 2 students
- Students with interrupted/limited previous schooling
- Most students have fewer than 10 high school credits
- At four sites on public transportation routes
- [http://www.fcps.edu/is/esol/transitional.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/esol/transitional.shtml)

Transitional ESOL High School Program
- Transitional program provides introductory transitional courses necessary as foundation to work toward high school diploma
- ELP Level 1 & 2 and ESOL/Science, ESOL/Social Studies and Math (content concepts and academic language)
- Special supports for SIFE (Career nights, field trips, writing publications, yearbooks)
- Staffed by contracted, certified full-time ESOL teachers

Alternative and Adult High Schools
- Students 18 and over may transfer to an alternative or adult high school program to earn remaining credits to graduate with high school diploma
- No upper age limit for Adult High School
- Free tuition through age 22 – tuition over age 22
- Some daytime as well as evening schedules
Other programs for students 18 and over

- GED
- National External Diploma Program
- Adult ESOL
- Family Literacy

FCPS Goal: Prepare Students to be College and Career Ready

- Empowered with 21st Century skills
- Prepared to be successful members of a global community

For Further Information

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- FCPS website:
  http://www.fcps.edu/is/esol/index.shtml

Questions

Thank you for participating in today’s webinar on “Meeting the Needs of Students with Interrupted Formal Education & Refugee Backgrounds” presented by Teddi Predaris, Dee Daniels Scriven, and Rezene Hagos, and hosted by the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition, NCELA, located at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at The George Washington University.

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- If you have additional questions regarding the webinar contact askncela@gwu.edu.

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