

Re-Imagining Migration's Eight Guiding Principles For Working With Immigrant-Origin Youth

Embrace Diversity to Foster Belonging

Educators that embrace and incorporate the diversity of languages, identities, cultures, and family practices represented in their communities benefit from increased engagement and cross-cultural learning.

Cultivate Understanding and Interrupt Anti-Immigrant Bias

Fostering understanding of immigrant origin students by all school faculty AND their peers is essential for them to flourish and for greater inter-group understanding. Educational settings are uniquely poised to facilitate belongingness and social inclusion, and enhance intergroup connection to counteract bias, racism, and xenophobia.

Promote Unifying Migration Narratives

Stories of migration offer a lens into our past, present, and future and are a shared human experience upon which to foster empathic and perspective-taking capacities.

Take a Holistic Approach to Student Wellbeing

Cognitive, emotional, physical, and social well-being are fundamentally interrelated and interconnected. Reflect on your role and what you can do to support each of them.

Balance Trauma-Informed and Strength-Based Perspectives

While many immigrant-origin youth have experienced an array of traumas and stresses, they are resilient and will flourish if provided opportunities to develop a sense of belonging and competency with nurturing supports.

Adopt Asset Based Pedagogy and Practice

School faculty need to incorporate asset-based practices. Make sure classroom and school cultures are continually informed by and incorporate recognition of students' identities, inclusiveness, and respect which serve to engage and empower students.

Empowerment Begins With a Whole-Child Approach

Immigrant-origin students are more than English Learners. Take a whole-child approach with the understanding that Social and Emotional Learning practices and civic education are essential for all students so they are prepared to thrive.

Relationships Really Matter

Take advantage of informal opportunities for connecting between classes; teaching virtually, might mean texting or scheduling quick one-on-one chats. Inviting students to talk about their stories of movement and migration can help build connection, reduce prejudice, empower immigrant-origin students, and enhance empathy among their peers.