



# NEWCOMER KIT

Re-Imagining  
MIGRATION

This kit is a living resource designed to aggregate materials for a comprehensive newcomer intake process in addition to strategies for ongoing community building. There are resources for teachers, administrators, parents, and community members. We strive to keep this document as updated and actionable as possible. If you are aware of resources you would like to highlight or have questions this document did not answer, please contact us at [meisha@reimaginingmigration.org](mailto:meisha@reimaginingmigration.org).

## **Belonging, School Community & Understanding Youth Social Systems**

### **Belonging Article (RM)**

- This report explores the relationship between belonging, democracy change, and schools. Communities suffer when schools don't meet the needs of their changing populations; this article highlights the imperative nature of belonging in schools.

### **Belonging Survey (RM)**

- A survey you can use with students to measure their sense of belonging in your classroom and school. This survey asks students to reflect and self-report on their sense of belonging in the school and classroom.

### **Student Community Building (RM)**

- We believe belonging is the cornerstone of social-emotional and academic development. Use the following questions as a starting point for intentional community building driven by student agency, interest, and choice. This document is intended to be used with K-12 students; some questions may need to be adapted/ translated/scaffolded.

### **Observation Form (RM)**

- We have designed this reflection form to support educators in holistic observations of their school community, classroom practices, and student social relationships. The individual student, classroom, and whole-school questions are intended to help teachers gain a deeper understanding of their students' experiences, especially their immigrant origin and newcomer students. The ultimate goal is to use the findings to create action plans for fostering a greater sense of inclusion and belonging for all students.

### **Games for Building Relationships (iThrive)**

- [Our Threads](#): A question card game that supports students—refugees and non-refugees—feeling understood, welcomed, and cared for by others.
- [Question Generator](#): An online question generator for getting to know someone and building relationships.

## **Holistic Kits**

### **Supporting Students From Immigrant Families (SPLC)**

- This is a video resource in which participants become familiar with the legal obligations of supporting immigrant students as well as the importance of approaching this work with an asset-based lens. The video provides insights into assessing current local policies and practices and familiarity with resources for advocating for positive change.

### **Newcomer Welcome Kit (IN)**

- This document includes tools, resources, and links to websites on how to:
  - Refine registration & English Learner identification processes
  - Learn about your newcomer students and provide training for a unified welcome message
  - Establish meaningful & accessible multilingual communication
  - Foster collaboration at all levels of your school community
  - Advocate for your Newcomer students

### **U.S. Department of Education Newcomer Toolkit (DOE)**

- Meeting the physical, linguistic, social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of these students and their families is essential to their success and can be an opportunity for educators and community members across the country to reflect upon and enhance their practices and processes. This toolkit is a resource for state, local, and school leaders to support multilingual learners and general education educators who directly serve immigrant and refugee students.

# Legal

## Overview

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in schools that receive federal assistance.
- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides funding and guidance for educators regarding their responsibilities with newcomer students.
- Supreme Court rulings Plyler v. Doe and Lau v. Nichols affirm that all students, regardless of immigration status or national origin, have the right to free public education and access to instructional content in their home language.

## **FACT SHEET: Educational Services for Immigrant Children and Those Recently Arrived to the United States (DOE)**

- This fact sheet provides information to help education leaders better understand the legal responsibilities of States and local educational agencies (LEAs) in connection with such students and the existing resources available to help educate all immigrant students – including children who recently arrived in the United States.

## **Protecting Immigrant Students' Rights To A Public Education (SPLC)**

- This link includes legal resources that can be used by families, advocates, educators, and school administrators to understand their schools' and districts' responsibilities to students and families. Materials include:
  - A full-length manual on immigrant students and families' legal rights in public school,
  - Pamphlets with a summary of the manual, translated into many languages,
  - An illustrated story showing how a family overcomes obstacles to common rights violations in schools,
  - Printable advocacy letters for use by families and advocates to notify schools of rights violations and seek assistance.

## **Discipline & Students Rights (LFJ)**

- [Decarceration Begins With School Discipline Reform](#)
  - Article on the role educators have in ending discipline that criminalizes youth and how reforms, including trauma-informed and restorative practices, can disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

## Language

### **English Learner Toolkit for State and Local Education Agencies (SEAs and LEAs) (DOE)**

- The tool kit is designed to help state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) in meeting their legal obligations to ELs and in providing all ELs with the support needed to attain English language proficiency while meeting college- and career-readiness standards. The EL Tool Kit is intended primarily for state, district, and school administrators, as well as teachers, but may also inform other stakeholders concerned with the education of ELs.

## Curriculum

### **Learning Arc (RM)**

- The Re-Imagining Migration learning arc offers a series of guiding questions that provide a structure for talking and teaching about migration in ways that promote, empathy, understanding, perspective-taking, and civic empowerment.

### **Culturally Responsive Teaching Checklist (RM)**

- This tool is intended to help make the concept of a culturally responsive classroom concrete and to provide an opportunity for reflection and self-assessment.

### **Understanding Migration Curriculum Checklist and Reflection Tool (RM)**

- This resource is designed to support educators' teaching about migration in ways that promote the key dispositions outlined in the Re-Imagining Migration framework and is inspired by the Re-Imagining Migration Learning Arc. The checklist and reflection tool includes questions about intended learning outcomes, source selection, the use of stereotypes in curriculum, and culturally responsive connections to students, as well as the intended thematic focus of your curriculum.

## Family, Guardian & Community Engagement

### [Bridge Differences In Expectations About The Role Of Parents In Your School \(IN\)](#)

- There are a variety of experiences and perceptions parents around the world may have about school; this resource includes strategies for bridging differences in expectations about school. A few different strategies include explaining school hours, absences, faculty roles, PTA meetings, and after-school opportunities.

### [Host School Events for Multilingual Parents and Families \(IN\)](#)

- In addition to inviting parents and family members to an upcoming school event by sending translated flyers home with students, translated text messages, newsletters, and robocalls, you now need to ensure that parents and families who attend the event have access to the information and experiences provided in their best language. This resource includes tools for supporting multilingual participants at school events, such as a curriculum night plan and parent associate meeting plan.

### [Helping Your Child With a Disability Get a Good Education \(SPLC\)](#)

- This is a guide for the parents, grandparents, guardians, and allies of children with disabilities, to help them navigate the complex system that governs educational services for children with special needs.

## Background on Organizations Included

### [Re-Imagining Migration \(RM\)](#)

- Re-Imagining Migration aims to transform the educational ecosystem to ensure that immigrant-origin youth, their peers, and the communities in which they inhabit flourish in a global society increasingly shaped by migration and demographic diversification. By harnessing the power of schools, museums, and other informal learning environments, we create learning experiences that cultivate a sense of belonging and understanding while promoting life-long dispositions that enable young people to thrive. With an approach rooted in research, our unique educational practices cater to both in-school and out-of-school learners, aiding not only their academic progress but also fostering all-around civic, ethical, and social development. By nurturing the most diverse generation in the history of the United States, we are supporting

whole communities, mitigating polarization and xenophobia, and reorienting the narrative of migration from a crisis to an opportunity.

### **Internationals Network (IN)**

- The Internationals Network is a leader in serving multilingual learners, with over 35 years of experience and 10,000+ students educated. They have developed a comprehensive Newcomer Welcome Kit that ensures all school staff members understand the legal basis for enrolling newcomer students in public schools in the United States.

### **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) & Learning for Justice (LFJ)**

- Learning for Justice seeks to uphold the mission of the Southern Poverty Law Center: to be a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.

### **iThrive Games**

- IThrive Games leads the design of accessible games, tools, and experiences that advance learning for teens and protect and promote their mental health. Their team of adolescent development and mental health experts builds on 30+ years of combined instructional and game design experience to create compelling and accessible games, tools, and programs that nurture teens' genius by folding in social and emotional skill-building—a practice proven to nourish mental health and learning.