

BRYCS
Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services

Supporting Newcomer Students through Parent Civic Engagement in Schools

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools

Welcome!

Thank you for participating in this peer exchange and your interest in this very important topic!

- If you need help trouble shooting during this presentation, email info@brycs.org.
- This Webinar will be recorded and archived. All participants will receive a follow-up email with an evaluation for today's presentation.
- As a courtesy, moderators have muted all phone lines.
- During the Q&A session, please use the chat pod on the right to submit your questions. Any unanswered questions will be posted and responded to on BRYCS Blog: <http://brycsblog.blogspot.com/>

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools

Today's Expert




Laura Gardner is a social worker and the founder of Gardner & Associates: Immigrants, Refugees, and Schools (www.immigrantsrefugeesandschools.org) which provides training, technical assistance, and consultative services to school districts and other organizations on a variety of topics related to social work, education, immigration, and refugee resettlement. Laura worked for BRYCS from 2006-2012 where she managed technical assistance to Refugee School Impact Grantees.

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools

Objectives

1. Gain awareness of opportunities for refugee civic engagement, including interacting with the school board
2. Acquire information on refugee parental rights in public schools
3. Learn about the new Every Student Succeeds Act and how it may affect refugee students and families



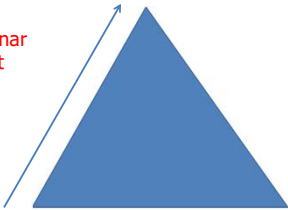
©Getty Images/Juanmorales

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 4

4 Levels of Immigrant Parent Involvement

- Cultural leaders – target audience for today's webinar (and refugee resettlement staff)
- Cultural connectors
- Cultural learners
- Cultural survivors



www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 5

Parental Rights in Public Schools

- Right to receive information in preferred language
 - Federal civil rights obligation
 - 2015 Fact Sheet from Depts of Ed & Justice
 - BRYCS publication on "Federal Requirements to Provide Interpretation & Translation in Schools"

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 6

Chat box


Does your local school district typically provide parents with information in a language they understand? How so?

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 7

Parental Rights in Public Schools

- Right to weigh in on school board policies and regulations
 - Online or in-person
 - Right to request an interpreter
 - Policies on important topics such as bullying, cultural competency, equity, etc.



www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 8

Parental Rights in Public Schools

- Right to provide input on the school district's budget & how funds are spent
 - Learn your district's annual process and where the opportunities for input are
 - Public budget hearings, writing letters, emails, & phone calls
 - May provide input in preferred language

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 9

Chat box

Have you ever spoken in front of your local school board or reached out to share your opinion on a policy or the budget? In what capacity (i.e. a parent, resettlement employee, etc.)? If you have not communicated with your school board, why not?

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 10

Other Opportunities for Refugee Parents & Community Leaders

- Curriculum Committees
- Diverse Workforce Committees
- School Improvement Committees
- Parent / Community Committees



©iStockphoto.com/Steve Deberport

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 11

Chat box

Have you ever participated in one of these types of committees? What was your experience like? If you have not, why not?

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 12

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- 2018-19 school year – ESSA will be implemented at the district level
- Replaced "No Child Left Behind"
- Increased emphasis on family & community engagement

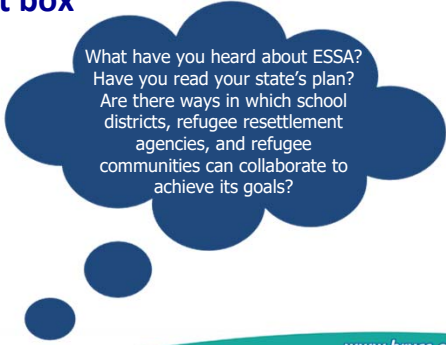


www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 23



Chat box

What have you heard about ESSA?
 Have you read your state's plan?
 Are there ways in which school districts, refugee resettlement agencies, and refugee communities can collaborate to achieve its goals?



www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 24

BRYCS Photo / Courtesy of CSS Anchorage

Questions?

Please use the chat pod on the right to submit your questions.

Unanswered questions will be posted and responded to on BRYCS Blog:
<http://brycsblog.blogspot.com/>

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 25



Contact Us
www.brycs.org
info@brycs.org
1-888-572-6500



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services received \$225,000 in competitive funding through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant 90RB007. BRYCS is financed 100% through Federal funds. The materials presented are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

*Models are used for illustrative purposes

www.brycs.org

Civic Engagement in Schools 25
