


School Orientation for Refugee Parents: Best Practices

Wednesday, June 8 @ 2PM EST




Welcome!

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

- If you need help trouble shooting g this presentation, email info@brycs.org or use the chat pod on the left.
- This Webinar will be recorded and archived. An evaluation will be sent after the Webinar is completed.
- As a courtesy, moderators have muted all phone lines.
- During the Q&A session, please use the chat pod on the left to submit your questions. Any unanswered questions will be posted and responded to on BRYCS Blog: <http://brycsblog.blogspot.com/>

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Objectives


- Learn 3 key strategies in getting refugee parents ready
- Understand why recognizing trauma or mental health concerns can ease cultural adjustment for the whole family
- Hear about outreach efforts that facilitate parents to better support their youth in school

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Introductions



Marisa Rogers, Cultural Orientation Coordinator (USCCB/MRS)

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Introductions



Maddie Wood, Refugee Youth Supervisor
Catholic Charities of Onondaga County in
Syracuse, NY



Ben Malecki, VRSAP School Liaison
Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington (VA)


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Introductions continue...



Houmma Garba, Education Program Services
Manager, Caritas of Austin



Maria Arabbo, Refugee Family Support Specialist,
Austin Independent School District

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Easing Cultural Adjustment




Photo credit: NCCI Dayton website

- ❖ Include discipline, child supervision and introduction to US Schools in general cultural orientation sessions
- ❖ Connect family to school district's liaison or community engagement staff
- ❖ Partner with community stakeholders to provide cultural orientation for youth/children, if not available
- ❖ Link newly arrived refugee families with less new refugee families!

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Ongoing Communication



Photo Credit: CVO Syracuse

- ❖ Assisting with interpretation or translation needs
- ❖ Home visits can be more productive
- ❖ Referrals to community resources
- ❖ Create relationship that they can come to you at anytime with a question!

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Outreach/Special Events



Photo Credit: Caritas of Austin

- ❖ Parent teacher conferences
- ❖ Cultural events
- ❖ Direct Service Volunteers – home work help, CO review
- ❖ Family Mentors/Cultural brokers

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Consider Mental Health/ Trauma




Photo Credit: CYO Syracuse

- ❖ Parent or child discloses trauma witnessed in home country or first asylum country
- ❖ Noticing unexplained behavioral or emotional problems
- ❖ Be equipped with your local culturally competent mental health professionals
- ❖ ORR's mental health technical assistance provider

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Questions?



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Additional Resources:



1. BRYCS' collection of [webinars and highlighted resources on schools](#)
2. BRYCS' Toolkit [Refugee Children in U.S. Schools: A Toolkit for Teachers and School Personnel](#)
3. 'A New Day' and 'Be Who You Are' videos ([CORE website](#))
4. [Welcome to Virginia Public Schools](#) video
5. [Welcome to the United States](#) videos (CAL)
6. [Welcome to Anne Arundel County Public Schools](#) video

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Contact Us

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