



Refugee and Unaccompanied Youth Fact Sheet 2018-2019

Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services

Definition of Refugee

Individuals granted protective status while abroad who have fled their homeland and are unable to return to their country of origin because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Reference to the word refugee also includes individuals found to be Asylees, Amerasians, or Human Trafficking victims.

Definition of Unaccompanied Youth

An unaccompanied alien child is a child who has no lawful immigration status in the United States; has not attained 18 years of age; and, came into the United States without an adult guardian accompanying them. More information on the Unaccompanied Alien Children's (UAC) Program can be found at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/ucs/about#facts>

Obligations to Refugee Students and Unaccompanied Youth

All children in the United States are entitled to a basic public elementary and secondary education regardless of their race, color, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, or the status of their parents/guardians. School districts that either prohibit or discourage children from enrolling in schools because they or their parents/guardians are not U.S. citizens or are undocumented may be in violation of Federal law. More information about Rights can be found at:

- <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/access-education-rule-law>
- <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/plyler-v-doe-still-guaranteeing-unauthorized-immigrant-childrens-right-attend-us-public/>
- <http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Title/ESOL/DearColleagueFactSheet.pdf>

Services for Refugee Students

Student's identified as having refugee status may benefit from many of the existing services and resources that districts have in place. These services and resources may include, but are not limited to:

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=565>
- Title III and State ESOL/Bilingual Programs
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=737>
- Title I, Part C Migrant Education Programs
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=576>

Resources

- Fact Sheet- Immigrants and Recently Arrived
<http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Title/ESOL/EducationServicesImmigrantsRecentlyArrived.pdf>
- Fact Sheet II- Immigrants and Recently Arrived
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/unaccompanied-children-2.pdf>
- Bridging Refugee Youth and Children Services
<http://www.brycs.org/publications/schools-toolkit.cfm>
- Center for Applied Linguistics
<http://www.cal.org/>
- Colorín Colorado
<http://www.colorincolorado.org/index.php?langswitch=en>
- Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning:
www.SpringInstitute.org

Contact Information

Julie Ewing,
ESOL/Title III Consultant
jewing@ksde.org or 785-296-4906

Rachel Beech,
Migrant, Neglected & Delinquent Consultant
rbeech@ksde.org or 785-296-8965

Doug Boline,
Migrant Director
Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title
Services Assistant Director
dboline@ksde.org or 785-296-2600

Colleen Riley,
Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title
Services Director
criley@ksde.org or 785-291-3097

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An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201