



# Refugee and Unaccompanied Youth Fact Sheet 2018-2019 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](http://www.SpringInstitute.org)

## Contact Information

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