

10 Ways to Welcome Refugee Students to Your Schools and Classrooms

1. Connect newcomer students and families with local resources, such as the public library or refugee-serving educational organizations and programming.
2. Provide written materials regarding school programs, announcements and other opportunities in the family's home language.
3. Incorporate diverse books and histories into your curriculum and school libraries.
4. Actively work to disrupt bias, xenophobia, and racism in your school and community by engaging in cultural sensitivity training.
5. Continue to educate yourself on the current issues impacting refugees globally, nationally, and locally.
6. Get to know and connect with the resettlement agencies that serve the newcomer families in your school and district.
7. Encourage peer support networks by connecting refugee students with local students who might help with language support, navigating social situations, and fostering friendship and inclusion.
8. Check in with refugee students to see how they are adjusting and provide support as needed.
9. Organize a parent engagement night for refugee parents and guardians to connect with school practitioners and one another.
10. Organize a back-to-school or orientation night for refugee students and families to assist them in learning teachers' names, the school's expectations and ways to navigate the building.

When students feel welcome and that they belong in their schools and classrooms, they are more likely to have better academic and behavioral outcomes.

In addition to these ten ideas think about other ways you could create spaces of welcome for your newcomer students.

