

IMMIGRANT STUDENT SUCCESS

Strategies and Tools for K-12 and Adult Educators

Mitigating Trauma

- **Provide stability.** The stability and predictability of a teacher and school is even more important when students' home lives are in flux. Continue to engage families in learning.

- **Stay up to date.** It is imperative to stay current on relevant immigration policies and how they affect your students.
- **Use art to tell stories and heal.** Incorporate visual media as a way for students to share and hear stories of ancestry and migration.

 [How Teachers Can Help Immigrant Kids Feel Safe](#)

 [Supporting Immigrant Families in a Time of Fear](#)



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Creating Empathy

- **Normalize newness.** Everyone has been new in some situation in their life. Incorporate this concept into your classroom to get students sharing and empathizing.

- **Create space to share stories.** Build empathy with extended story sharing in your classroom or community.
- **Contextualize migration.** Use literature and history to create context around immigration and policy.

 [Creating Empathy Through Storytelling](#)

 [Podcasting the Immigrant Experience](#)



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Building Relationships

- **Reach out.** Actively include immigrant parents in meetings and conversations. Cultivate leadership among immigrant parents.
- **Build trust.** Develop a two-way trusting relationship with each family to collaborate over their student's success.

- **Know parents' rights.** All parents have rights to provide input on school policies and budget, as well as to receive information in their home language.
- **Know yourself.** To be an ally, you must be comfortable with your own identity.

 [Four Stages of Immigrant Parent Involvement](#)

 [Immigrant and Refugee Children: A Guide for Educators and Staff](#)



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Role of the Teacher

- **Learn the facts.** Misinformation spreads fear, so never repeat the myths.
- **Recognize implicit bias.** Question your own assumptions and seek out your implicit biases. Identifying them is the first step toward reducing their impact on students.

- **Avoid singling out students.** Contextualize and discuss immigration in your classroom without calling unwanted attention to immigrant students.
- **Interrogate power.** Question and analyze existing power structures in your school, community or context. Develop more democratic structures that provide access and elevate voices equitably.

 [Anatomy of an Ally toolkit](#)

 [Updates on Immigration Policy Changes](#)



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LESSON PLAN IDEAS



1. Welcoming Book: Students explore from their own experience the feeling of being new and create an informational welcoming book for any new students.

2. Where Does Your Name Come From? Students share meanings behind their names and learn the importance of pronouncing someone's name correctly.

3. Story Exchange: Students engage in an extended narrative encounter in pairs, exchanging stories on a specific theme and retelling each other's story.

4. Compare and Contrast: Students examine stories of survival through literature, visual media or current events to understand basic human needs.

 [Building Welcoming Schools toolkit](#)

 [Implicit Bias lesson plan](#)



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More resources at bit.ly/ILCeducate