NSW Department of Education

Refugee education resources

Documents

[A guide to supporting students from refugee backgrounds]

A comprehensive guide to support principals, teachers, and school staff understand and effectively cater for the unique learning and wellbeing needs of students from refugee backgrounds.

[Supporting students from refugee backgrounds - Evaluation and planning tool]

A practical self-assessment resource designed to help schools implement trauma-informed and evidence-based strategies to support the learning, wellbeing and settlement of students from refugee backgrounds.

[Student learning plans]

Planning templates to support students from refugee backgrounds with their orientation, learning and settlement.

[Tertiary pathways for students from refugee backgrounds]

Advice on how schools can support students from refugee backgrounds access and navigate tertiary and post-school pathways.

[Tertiary scholarships 2026-2027]

Overview of post-school and tertiary scholarships for students from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds

Professional learning

[S.T.A.R.S in schools: Supporting students from refugee backgrounds]

A 5-hour Quality Assured professional learning that provides effective strategies to assist school staff working with students from refugee backgrounds.

[Teaching students from a refugee background]

A 20-hour Quality Assured program that helps classroom teachers K-12 develop the skills and knowledge they need to effectively teach students from refugee backgrounds in mainstream classrooms.

Professional learning

Classrooms of Possibility self-access course

A self-access course to develop understanding of evidence-informed strategies to support recently arrived EAL/D learners, including those from refugee backgrounds access the curriculum and develop their academic English language proficiency.

Classrooms of Possibility PL Website

Provides professional learning resources that demonstrate different elements of EAL/D pedagogy in the classroom with accompanying discussion questions, suggestions for professional learning activities and further professional readings.

Inclusive career learning strategies for students from refugee backgrounds

Designed for Careers and Transition Advisors, Senior Pathways Officers and Advisors, SBAT Officers, Year 10, 11,12 Advisors to support students from refugee backgrounds with their post-school pathways.

Orientation for School Learning Support Officers (SLSO) Bilingual

Provides an overview of the key roles and responsibilities of the SLSO bilingual

DoE Websites

Supporting refugee students

Overview of supporting students from refugee backgrounds with links to relevant information

The Welcome Program

Orientation program for students to assist with their transition to school in Australia

Henry Parkes Equity Resource Centre

Access to the equity resource library and conference facilities

Interpreting and translations

Guidelines to organise interpreters and access translated documents

Refugee Student Counselling Support Team's Google Site

Information, advice and resources on supporting students from refugee backgrounds

Roads to Refuge

Gives teachers and students factual and relevant information about refugees

External agencies and resources
AskIzzy A valuable tool that connects people to essential services, including tutoring, health care, food, housing, and community groups
Australian Red Cross Migrant & Refugee Settlement Services National program to support refugees in their first 12 months in the country
Families in Cultural Transition (FICT) Program Series of 10 workshops designed to help newly arrived people from refugee backgrounds as they transition to their new life in Australia
Foundation House (VIC) - School's In for Refugees Foundation House resource linked to the Victorian school curriculum to assist student engagement wellbeing and achievement
Multicultural NSW Settlement Hub Multilingual website that provides information and services to support settlement in NSW
NSW Refugee Health Service Statewide service that provides clinical services and medical assessments for recently arrived refugee and asylum seekers
Refugee Council: Services in New South Wales List of organisations in NSW that provide support for refugees
Refugee Council of Australia Peak national umbrella body for refugees and people seeking asylum
Refugee Council of Australia: Resources for students and educators
Refugee Week Information and resources to celebrate Refugee Week
Settlement Services International Not for profit organisation that provides community-based services to refugees and people seeking asylum
Settling In program Group program to help newly arrived refugee students adjust to life in Australia

External agencies and resources

STARTTS

Specialist not-for-profit organisation, that partners with schools, to provide culturally appropriate psychological treatment and support for refugees and migrants who have experienced torture and trauma

STARTTS: Hints for healing

Free practical resources, case studies, podcasts, professional learning, interviews and research articles to support educators and school counsellors

STARTTS School Liaison Team

Trauma support services to students from refugee backgrounds and their families across NSW.

STARTTS Witness to War Hotline

Multilingual telephone line launched to assist NSW residents impacted by overseas conflict

ph: 1800 845 198

Transcultural Mental Health

Work with health professionals and communities across New South Wales to support positive mental health for people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities

UNHCR toolkit for teachers

Teaching materials on refugees, asylum and migration for primary and secondary education

Department contact and teacher networks

Refugee Student Education Advisor

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Refugee Student Education Officer

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EAL/D Education Leaders

Provide high quality, evidence based professional support and advice for school leaders and teachers across principal networks

Department contact and teacher networks
EAL/D NSW statewide staffroom and designated Refugee student support channel Provides a trusted, online space for teachers of EAL/D and refugee background students to connect, share ideas, ask questions, access resources and participate in professional learning
Refugee Education Networks Facilitate professional and collegial support to primary and secondary school staff to develop strategies, share ideas, seek advice and build resources as a community of schools Contact the EAL/D Education Leader for your network for more information on how to join or the Refugee Student Programs Advisor on 0457 004 987.
Refugee Student Counselling Support Team Provide psychological expertise to schools to support students from refugee backgrounds and their families E: refugeesupportteam@det.nsw.edu.au ph. 1300 579 060