

Refugee School Impact Program in Arizona

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

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Who is a Refugee?

- Must cross an **international border**
- **Cannot return to country of origin**
- Unable to return due to **fear of persecution** because of...
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Nationality
 - Social Group
 - Political Opinion



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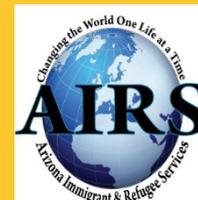
<http://www.worldvision.org/news-stories-videos/refugee-videos-south-sudan-syria>

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Refugee Resettlement in Arizona

4 refugee resettlement agencies (RAs) in Arizona welcome refugees upon their arrival to the United States and provide them essential services during their first 30 days in the U.S. These services are provided under cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).



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These services include federally funded transitional benefits and services, such as refugee cash and medical assistance, employment services, English language training and case management that help facilitate refugees' and other eligible beneficiaries achieving the goals of successful resettlement and economic self-sufficiency.

Since the inception of the program in 1978, over 60,000 refugees have made Arizona home.

The **Refugee School Impact Program** is part of the **Division of Refugee Assistance (DRA)** and provides funding for activities that lead to the effective integration and education of refugee children. State and state-alternative programs receive grants to support impacted school districts services for school-age refugees.



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Public School Districts:

Phoenix: Eight School Districts - **1,272** eligible students

Tucson: Two School Districts - **444** eligible students

Total Eligible Students: 1,716

RA-based Refugee School Coordinators work with refugee education stakeholders (such as LEAs, school districts staff, RAs, and ECBOs) on RSIG efforts.

Refugee School Coordinators

Violetta Lopez (IRC, Phoenix)

Julie Kasper (Refugee Focus, Tucson)

Newest Resource for School Districts!!

The Refugee Family Engagement Project video seeks to provide a comprehensive guide to the Arizona school system in order to help refugee families support their students in successful school completion. *Some* of the topics covered in this video include:

*School Rules

*Attendance

*Fire Drills

*Grading Systems

*Parent Involvement

*ELL Block

*Interpreter Services

*Personal Hygiene

School Partnerships Needed

Arizona is one of the top 5 states for resettlement in the US. We ask that school districts support the positive integration of these children and parents into our Arizona schools. There are funding and **resource** opportunities for LEAs serving this population. LEAs will enhance their eligibility for these opportunities by:

- appropriately identifying refugee students
- being aware of resources available for schools, parents, and students- partner with RAs! 😊
- long term tracking of students

Contact Information

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