

Tips for Identifying Students with Possible Backgrounds of Limited Formal Schooling

Intake Information – See [Sample Intake Interview](#). During the intake interview, families report that students:

- May have been out of school for the last 2 or more years
- May have completed several fewer years of schooling compared to Canadian peers of the same age
- May have attended school every year but for shorter periods of time and shorter hours per day
- May have been in another Canadian city for a short time before coming to Alberta as their secondary migration destination (e.g. French-speaking Quebec).
- may have been placed in a lower grade, a remedial program, or a specialized program for LFS in another jurisdiction

Their immigration documents and family history show that they are from countries with a background of war, famine, poverty, natural disasters, or weakened political and social infrastructures. They have come from:

- Countries at war such as Afghanistan, Iraq
- Countries rebuilding infrastructure such as former Soviet Union countries like Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan
- Countries with ongoing civil unrest or history of persecution of certain groups: Iraq, Cambodia, Laos, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mongolia, Tibet, Burma (Myanmar), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Niger, Chad, Uganda, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi
- Border regions indicative of status as displaced people: Sudanese living in Kenya, Palestinians living in Egypt, Burmese living in Thailand, Kurds living in Syria
- Countries identified by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees as targeted populations for resettlement such as the Karen from Thailand/Burma, the Bhutanese from Nepal

There may be other indicators of students of this profile. They:

- May have an uncertain date of birth due to the loss of original records. The dates of January 1 or July 1 are often an indication of an inexact date of birth.
- May have a discrepancy between the date of birth on the immigration documentation and what the family states is the true birth date.

Note: Regardless of what families report, we are bound by law to use the birthdates indicated on immigration documents. If families wish to dispute the documents, they must pursue a “Request to Amend Your Record of Landing.”

- May be receiving settlement support from one of the agencies responsible for refugee resettlement and may have been living at one of their designated temporary resettlement centres. [See Refugee Serving Agencies in Wrap-Around Supports.](#)
- May have had guardianship granted to other relatives

Immigration Status - These students often have refugee status or status as the dependent of a refugee. The Citizenship and Immigration resettlement codes provide useful information about the family and what supports are available. The codes identify, for example, whether they are government sponsored, group-sponsored, or self-supporting; or whether they have been identified as a special needs case, or accepted on compassionate grounds. Relevant immigration codes are found on Line 19 of their immigration papers:

Relevant Immigration Codes

Convention Refugee Abroad Classes

People unable to return to home country because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, political opinion, nationality of membership in a particular social group.

Codes: CR1, CR 3, CR4, CR5, CR8, CR9, CRC, CRS, CRG, CRX

Country of Asylum Classes

People in refugee-like situations who are unable to live in their home country, who are seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict or have suffered massive violations of human rights.

Codes: RA3, RA4, RA5, RAC, RAS, RAG, RAX

Source Country Classes

People living in countries identified as sources of refugees, who are seriously affected by civil war or armed conflict, fear persecution or have been imprisoned for political dissent. Government assisted or privately sponsored.

Codes: RS1, RS3, RS4, RS5, RSC, RSG, RSX

Dependent of Refugee or Dependent of Refugee Claimant

Children or other relatives of a refugee admitted to Canada earlier.

Codes: CR8, CR9, DR1, DR2, PD2

Refugee Claimant

People in Canada who fear persecution or whose removal from Canada would subject them to a danger of torture, a risk to their life or a risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment. They have sought protection as a refugee and await a decision by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.

Humanitarian and Compassionate Consideration

People granted asylum in Canada for humanitarian reasons.

Codes: HC1