

## U.S. schools gear up for surge of young immigrants

As the federal government scrambles to respond to an unprecedented surge of unaccompanied minors streaming across the border, the wave of young immigrants arriving alone from Central American has already begun to surface in communities and public schools far from the Southwest. In San Francisco and Oakland CA, as well as in the suburbs of Washington, educators report that the number of unaccompanied minors has been rising steadily for several months in their high schools. And in New York City, educators are beginning to coordinate with city agencies and nonprofit organizations to address the needs of some 3,000 undocumented children and youth who have arrived there over the past few months.

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Quote from above article

*Our school is really built for these kids. They are not marginalized here, and we have the luxury of being able to really focus on what their needs are. The pressures are immense on them and on those of us who are working with them. It is a superhuman feat. These are some of the most resilient and brilliant young people I have ever seen.*

Julie Kessler, Principal, San Francisco International High School

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### Resources for Schools Gearing Up for Surge of Immigrants

**We are encouraging districts/schools receiving recently arrived students from Central America to expand transition plans to address the surge. Hope to hear of resources being used so we can share them to schools across the country. Here are some resources we can share at this time::**

From the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools

>Immigrant and Refugee Children – <http://www.healthinschools.org/Immigrant-and-Refugee-Children/Caring-Across-Communities.aspx>

From the National Association of School Psychologists

>Understanding the plight of immigrant and refugee students –

<http://www.nasponline.org/publications/cq/39/5/understandingtheplight.aspx>

>School based services for traumatized refugee children –

<http://www.nasponline.org/publications/cq/39/5/ServiceRefugeeChildren.aspx>

>Immigrant families: strategies for school support –

[http://www.nasponline.org/resources/principals/Immigrant\\_FamiliesJan10\\_NASSP.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/resources/principals/Immigrant_FamiliesJan10_NASSP.pdf)

>Immigrant teenagers: helping them adjust to their first year –

<http://www.nasponline.org/communications/spawareness/immigrantteen.pdf>

From our Center at UCLA

>Immigrant Children and Youth: Enabling Their Success at School –

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/immigrant.pdf>

>Also see Quick Finds on:

>>Cultural Competence and Related Issues – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/culturecomp.htm>

>>Immigrant Students and Mental Health – <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/qf/immigrantkids.htm>

From the NY Times (7/17/14)

**With Surge in Child Migrants, NY Forms Task Force on Aiding Them** (By Kirk Semple)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/18/nyregion/new-york-creates-task-force-in-response-to-surge-of-child-migrants.html?action=click&contentCollection=N.Y.%20%2F%20Region&module=RelatedCoverage&region=Marginalia&pgtype=article>

"New York City officials have formed a task force in response to the surging population of unaccompanied migrant children from Central America who have arrived in the city in recent months and swamped community-based groups in search of help for their deportation cases, health issues, school enrollment and other urgent needs.

Since last October, federal officials have sent more than 3,200 child migrants to the city and elsewhere in the state to reunite with relatives or to live with guardians, and about 7,000 more are expected to follow in the coming months, according to immigrants' advocates and others who have been briefed by federal authorities.

Nisha Agarwal, the city's commissioner for immigrant affairs, said her office was leading a newly formed interagency working group to decide how to mobilize resources to best assist these youths. "We are keeping a close eye on the developing situation," Ms. Agarwal said in a statement.

As the impact of the migration crisis has been felt beyond the Southwest border and across the country, opposition to sheltering the young migrants has mounted in many communities. But in New York City, a bastion of pro-immigrant policy, the reaction has been distinctly different.

Community-based groups that provide advocacy and services for immigrants met on Thursday afternoon with city, state and federal officials to discuss how they could "create a collaborative coordinated strategy to meet the varied needs of the children once they arrive here," said Camille Mackler, director of training and technical assistance at the New York Immigration Coalition, which organized the meeting....

In the New York region, newly arrived migrant children and their families have been showing up in overwhelming numbers at the offices of immigrant service providers seeking help. Immigrants' advocates said the most pressing task was to provide the children with legal counsel for their appearances in the immigration and family courts. Several immigration lawyers said a majority of the cases they had seen appeared to be eligible for some form of relief from deportation, primarily visas reserved for children who have been abused or abandoned.

Many of the child migrants are also saddled with medical and psychological issues, especially trauma, that need urgent attention, advocates said..