



WELCOME CENTER

Aurora Public Schools' Welcome Center aims to assist refugee and immigrant students in their transition to the school district and to provide academic support for these same students through targeted programming. Students are able to participate at all grade levels as long as they have come to the United States from other countries.

A centralized admissions system refers any immigrant and refugee families directly to the Welcome Center as a part of their school registration. During the intake process, families participate in an informal discussion to share information about their family's background and begin to create a relationship with district staff. This meeting allows Aurora Public Schools to be proactive about any issues that may arise during a child's schooling. Being aware of student background also makes Aurora Public School staff better able to work with students with disabilities.

Parents and families are then shown a binder, which explains the process of enrolling in the public school system in the United States. The orientation binder and following discussion allow families to ask questions and ensure they are prepared for their child's academic transition.

TEACHER ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Aurora Public School's Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) runs a support program for high school students with limited or interrupted schooling. This program focuses on English and Literacy development, and helps students acclimate to schools by encouraging participation in afterschool activities and teaching students how to become accountable for their own attendance. Two summer programs provide refugee and immigrant students with the opportunity to continue learning English over the summer break, and to participate in other enrichment activities designed to support social development.

Engaging with parents and families of refugee and immigrant students enables Aurora Public Schools to continuously convey to families that active participation and partnership in their child's education is encouraged. Parents are able to learn about the differences in academic and school community customs in the United States, and are able to participate actively in their child's academic development.