

INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS STUDENTS

GUIDELINES FOR HEADTEACHERS

Index

[Introduction](#)

1. [Current trends](#)
2. [Identifying problems at school](#)
3. [Predicting immigrant students' problems](#)
4. [Conducting school self-assessment](#)
5. [Planning](#)
6. [Approaches and Strategies](#)
7. [School dynamics that work](#)
8. [Communication with families](#)
9. [Monitoring and Evaluation](#)
10. [Defining a school policy for integration of immigrant students](#)

Introduction

“School failure is not unavoidable. There are solutions in concrete school practices to be found in the margins of freedom that headteachers allow themselves and considering the school as a place to live in. Those headteachers take a position of driving force, organiser, guarantee of the school project. With their team, they develop a trustful and voluntary ambition. They believe in their students’ abilities to progress, and in their own ability to change things. Professionalism is required, as well as support of students outside the class.”

[School Practices and Equity](#), Benoît De Waele, SeGEC (Secrétariat Général de l’Enseignement Catholique, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Belgium):

These guidelines, addressed to headteachers, have the following objectives:

- Identify the main bottlenecks and strengths, as well as threats and opportunities, regarding the inclusiveness and school success of immigrant students in your school. (Steps 1 – 2)
- Establish mechanisms that allow you to get to know the immigrant students. (Step 3)
- Learn about appropriate educational supports and organisational responses in order to accomplish a better integration of immigrant students. (Steps 4 – 5)
- Define school strategies that you may implement to make sure your school adopts a proactive policy towards the successful integration of immigrant students. (Steps 6 – 10)

Current trends

1. A large part of school dropout is due to the immigrant students' integration problem – that is a challenge to be addressed as a top priority by our educational policies.
2. Our schools are more and more multicultural and diversity is clearly a key for future sustainability.
3. Yet, most schools do not have a clear strategy to integrate immigrant students and there is an urgent need for this handicap to be overcome.
4. Successful adaptations among immigrant students appear to be linked to the quality of the relationships that they forge in their school settings which renders critical the role of the school leader, the headteacher.
5. There is a consensus that schools should welcome and orient newcomers, enhance language skills of those with limited proficiency, and connect families with neighbourhood services as much as feasible.

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Immigration-integration of migrants](#)
Report, written by Vasileios Pantazis (Greece), on the multifaceted issue of modern migration and integration processes of immigrants and children of immigrants in Greek society and the Greek school.
- [Intercultural skills at school: between diversity and equality](#)
The authors, Audrey Heine and Laurent Licata (Belgium), address the concept of intercultural skills and the importance for the members of educational teams to be able to use those skills.
- [Plan for providing education of immigrant students in the autonomous community of Andalusia](#)
Written by Junta de Andalucía (Spain).

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Integrating Immigrant Children into Schools in Europe](#)
EACEA Eurydice.
- [PISA - Untapped Skills: Realising the Potential of Immigrant Students](#)
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
- [Do immigrant students succeed? Evidence from Italy and France based on PISA 2006](#)
Marina Murat, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy).
- [DASPA, Service to welcome and educate newly arrived students](#)
Ministry of compulsory education – Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium).

Success Stories

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Arrival of a new headteacher and setting up of an "internal reschooling device"](#)
A success story in Belgium.
- [Success of a newly-arrived student](#)
A success story in Belgium.

Legislative Documents

- [Education in the "Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles"](#) (Belgium)
Decree organising differentiated supervision in the schools of the French-speaking Community to offer every student equal chances of social development in a quality educational environment.

Identifying Problems at School

1. Talk to different stakeholders and get information about your immigrant students: teachers, employees, parents, other students, social workers, psychologists, etc.
2. Know your immigrant population on a multidimensional way, as a student and as a member of a family and of a local community.
3. Involve immigrant students in the identification of the causes of their school problems.
4. Make sure you understand the overall picture about the problems student immigrants face in your school.
5. Define different immigrant students' problem typologies of school integration.

Online Manuals From the Routes Portal

- [Partire è un po' morire?](#) ("To leave is a bit like to die", an Italian proverb).
This resource focuses on the contradictory feelings associated with the experience of migrating to another country from the point of view of children and adolescents. It gives relevance to learning a language and its personal, emotional and cultural implications.
- [Home far away from home](#)
A second life in the new countries: to find a job, to learn a language, to meet new people...

Interviews

- [Interviews on prevention of early school leaving](#)
A Section of the **School Inclusion Portal** is dedicated to Interviews made, in five different European countries, with counsellors in charge of educational policies, headteachers, teachers, parents and students dealing with the prevention of early school leaving.
- [Interviews on migration issues](#)
The interviews available on the **Routes Portal** (Log-in: teacher – pixel) were made with Migrants and Natives who have been in contact with immigrants.

Training Sources From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Breaking down the barriers to immigrant students' success at school](#)
The article, written by Marilyn Achiron, focuses on education which is one of the best ways of integrating immigrant children and their families into their new home countries.
- [Immigrant Children and Youth: Enabling Their Success at School](#)
Center for Mental Health in Schools, Los Angeles.

Publications From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Study to fight school dropout](#)
This study, written by Planet (Greece), identifies the main parameters that make up the phenomenon of dropout and analyses the merits both internationally and nationally.
- [Per una scuola dell'inclusione](#)
"A comprehensive school", written by Graziella Favaro (Italy).

Predicting Immigrant Students' Problems

1. Build school mechanisms that may allow the anticipation of immigrant students' problems.
2. Be proactive and anticipate potential problems.
3. Define case scenarios, according to the different typologies of problems of immigrant students' integration.
4. Be attentive to the language handicaps, as well as to the socio-economic background of immigrant students.

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Drop out in the immigrant population Azuqueca de Henares](#)
In the article, written by Martín de Juan, Elena y Cámara Alves, Antonio (Spain), the question of the schooling of immigrant students in a municipality in the Autonomous Community of Castile-La Mancha, Azuqueca de Henares, is approached.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Integrating Immigrant Children into Schools in Europe](#)
This document, published by EACEA Eurydice, focuses on the different approaches the integration challenges of immigrant children are answered at a European scale.
- [Breaking down the barriers to immigrant students' success at school](#)
The article, written by Marilyn Achiron, focuses on education which is one of the best ways of integrating immigrant children and their families.

Other Sources

- [Overview on different immigrant students' problem typologies](#)
Database of "Success Stories", From the School Safety Net Portal.

Conducting School Self-Assessment

1. Create a methodological and analytical framework to deal with the problem of the integration of immigrant students.
2. Establish a diagnosis process that allow you to detect the problems as well as the causes that lie behind them – define a causal relationship so that you can intervene on the causes, not on the symptoms.
3. Make sure you involve all the school partners on the conduction of the self-assessment process.

Publications From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Progress Report of Project SMILE \(Supporting Multicultural Integration and Learning\)](#)
This report, written by Patrizia Giorio (Italy), comprises a Handbook for Evaluating the level of application of an intercultural approach of multicultural services for families and children and to evaluate the real intercultural competencies of educators working in such services.

Training Source From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Immigrants Integration Barometer 2013](#)
The study, written by Ovidiu Voicu (Romania), presents the main elements and conclusions of the research based on thirteen dimensions of the integration.
- [Immigrant Children and Youth: Enabling Their Success at School](#)
Center for Mental Health in Schools, Los Angeles
- [Preparing the Children of Immigrants for Early Academic Success](#)
Written by Robert Crosnoe.

Planning

1. Define momentums of periodical analysis of the problems of immigrant students' integration and do it mobilising the school community.
2. Elaborate methodological frameworks of analysis.
3. Define objectives and indicators to help you monitor the planning process of your school.
4. Mobilise and attribute responsibilities to different stakeholders, namely to teachers, in this planning process.
5. Write yearly reports of the situation.
6. Use the new information on the new planning period.

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Plan for providing education of immigrant students in the autonomous community of Andalusia](#)
The Plan for the Educative Attention of Immigrant Students, written by Junta de Andalucía (Spain), answers the need of taking into consideration in educative action the growing phenomenon of immigration, pointing out some helpful guidelines for educational planning purposes.

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Breaking down the barriers to immigrant students' success at school](#)
The article, written by Marilyn Achiron, focuses on education which is one of the best ways of integrating immigrant children and their families.

Reports of the High Council for Integration

- [Les défis de l'intégration à l'école](#)
Recommendations of the High Council for Integration on religious expression in the spaces.

Approaches and Strategies

1. Mobilise and involve all school and community actors.
2. Create school and community answers to the immigrant students' needs and expectations.
3. Develop in schools a welcoming policy for the immigrant students: making a tour of the school, explaining the organisation of the studies, courses and diploma, informing students on the rules and values of the school, informing them on the people they can turn to in case of problems or questions.
4. Give immigrant students adjusted curricular and extra-curricular solutions - establishing specific assistance for newly-arrived students, adapting the educational practices and reinforcing the language development and the acquisition of the national language.
5. Implement a mediation or conflict resolution program, when problems arise.
6. Engage students of all ethnicities in projects, exercises and learning workshops that allow the achievements and rich heritages of each culture represented to be explored.

Publications

From the School safety Net Portal

- [School Practices and Equity](#)
The study, written by Benoît De Waele (Belgium) and published by (SeGEC), explores local experiences to find out practices that could lead to a school dynamics that is favourable to school results.
- [When school lessons are different from home lessons: a psychosocial approach to Muslim immigrants' children's relations to knowledge](#)
This article, written by Audrey Heine, Nicolas Van der Linden, Charlotte van den Abeele and Laurent Licata (Belgium), addresses the construction of relations to knowledge among young people with a Muslim immigrant background.
- [An Intercultural School – Citizenship, participation and interaction: the resources of a multicultural society](#)
Article written by Aluisi Tosolini, Simone Giusti, Gabriella Papponi Morelli (Italy).

Training Sources

From the School safety Net Portal

- [Strategies for Success: Engaging Immigrant Students in Secondary Schools](#)
This digest, written by Aida Walqui and West Ed (San Francisco, California), discusses 10 principles for developing effective teaching and learning contexts for immigrants adolescents and profiles one program that has been successful in promoting the academic success of its students by implementing these principles.
- [DASPA, Service to welcome and educate newly arrived students](#)
Ministry of compulsory education – Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium).

Reports

- [Les défis de l'intégration à l'école](#)
Recommendations of the High Council for Integration on religious expression in the spaces.
- [Donner la parole aux jeunes](#)
Report on ill-accompanied children by the general delegate for children's rights in French-speaking Belgium, November 2011 (Belgium)

School Dynamics that Work

1. Make sure you contribute to the creation of a multicultural inclusive school culture.
2. Value each and every single immigrant student cultural pattern and heritage.
3. Make sure you develop different initiatives addressed to the immigrant students and their families.
4. Educate teachers in adjusting their education to pupils of different ethnic origin.
5. Do not just tolerate the difference, cultivate it.
6. Include the principles of diversity and gender equality in school rules and condemn and correct sexist acts and words.

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [School Practices and Equity](#)
The study, written by Benoît De Waele (Belgium) and published by (SeGEC), explores local experiences to find out practices that could lead to a school dynamics that is favourable to school results. The study shows that school failure is not unavoidable.
- [Welcoming and Integrating - Guide for teachers who received a newly-arrived child](#)
The guide, written by MENFP – Foreign children schooling service (Luxembourg), is addressed to all educational stakeholders, especially primary teachers and headteachers, who receive a child who has just arrived in the country.
- ["Melting classes" Journey through the interculturality school \(« Melting classes » Voyage à l'école de l'interculturalité\)](#)
The book, written by Annick Bonnefond (Coord. at ChanGements pour l'Egalité) (Belgium), proposes a five-step path in the country of interculturality, inviting all stakeholders involved to view the multicultural dimension positively as it has become a characteristic of our societies.
- [Intercultural mediation and the construction of dialogues in difference: some reflections](#)
Comment written by Casa-Nova, Maria José (Portugal) about the panel "Intercultural Mediation" related to the seminar "Intercultural mediation and the construction of dialogues in difference: some reflections".
- [Intercultural skills at school: between diversity and equality](#)
Audrey Heine and Laurent Licata (Belgium) address the concept of intercultural skills and the importance for the members of educational teams to be able to use those skills.
- [Mainstreaming diversity – Analytical collection of intervention tools to foster diversities](#) (Belgium)
IRFAM (Institut de Recherche, Formation et Action sur les Migrations)

Training Sources

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Webinar: Opening Doors: Innovative Strategies for Immigrant](#)
Cities of Migration hosted a webinar to learn about winning educational strategies and practical lessons for immigrant student success. Learn how educators in Malmo and Frankfurt are testing new ideas in and outside the classroom and unlocking opportunity for academic achievement.
- [I respect. Active citizenship, cultural diversity and positive tolerance](#)
An eLearning Awards 2004 winner web portal on active citizenship, cultural diversity and positive tolerance.
- [A Handful of Kids: An Experiment in Intercultural Education](#)
Programa Escolhas (Portugal)

Reports

- [Les défis de l'intégration à l'école](#)
Recommendations of the High Council for Integration on religious expression in the spaces.
- [Donner la parole aux jeunes](#)
Report on ill-accompanied children by the general delegate for children's rights in French-speaking Belgium, November 2011 (Belgium).

Communication with Families

1. Improve the communication between the school and immigrant parents.
2. Publish written information on the school system in the mother tongue of immigrant families.
3. When needed, organise translations and use interpreters (authorised services or parents) during various situations of school life.
4. Translate the guidelines designed for parents. These guidelines need quite a good knowledge of the language of the country where immigrants live. The parents of immigrant students, instead, often do not know the language of the host country, so it would be necessary to give parents of immigrant students the guidelines in the two different languages, that of the country where they are living and that of the country of origin. The translation of the guidelines could be made by each school in order to support the students and their parents for integration.
5. Present adequately the school and its objectives to foreign parents and make information on school performances and projects more understandable for families.
6. Identify among parents those who can act as intermediary for others.
7. Create spaces for parents and parents' participation in school life.
8. Appoint resource people, such as mediators, specifically for the relation between immigrant students and their family on the one hand, and school on the other hand.
9. Cooperate and negotiate with associations that represent immigrants or develop activities that may be related to improving their integration.
10. Develop in schools a welcome policy for families to improve communication between the parents and teachers.
11. Multiply learning modules of the host country language for parents.
12. Develop efforts to engage immigrant parents in their children's education.

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [Building Partnerships with Immigrant Parents](#)
This article, written by Andrea Sobel and Eileen Gale Kuger (USA), describes an initiative developed by an American high school aimed at immigrant parents and their empowerment in school environments through a leadership program.

Training Sources

From the School safety Net Portal

- [Preparing the Children of Immigrants for Early Academic Success](#)
This paper, written by Robert Crosnoe, mainly touches on three types of interventions which might reduce disparities between the children who were born in the United States, and their counterparts.
- [Communication between the school and parents who do not speak French](#)
The UFAPEC supports and promotes actions developed by schools to ease communication and dialogue with immigrant parents. This document, written by Alice Pierard (Belgium), summarises the problem and presents some recent initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Define a monitoring and evaluation methodology.
2. Try to use either qualitative either quantitative methodologies.
3. Write year monitor and evaluation reports.
4. Disseminate the results of the overall evaluation process.

Publications

From the School Safety Net Portal

- [The integration of immigrants in Greece. The problems of the second generation](#)
This research, written by Anastasia Chaliapa (Greece), describes the history of immigration and the chronicle of Greece as a host country. Abundant statistical data is presented and economic and sociological approaches to migration are analysed.
- [Integration of Immigrants: A new study compares and ranks Romania as compared to other countries in Europe and North America](#)
MIPEX III study offer relevant and reliable information to governments, civil institutions and the general public need to compare policies to integrate migrants between countries and reported from time to time.

Defining a School Policy for Integration of Immigrant Students

1. Address the problem in a multidimensional way.
2. Integrate the school policy into a wider community policy for integration of immigrant students.
3. Work with multiple local agencies to bridge gaps at reaching immigrant populations.
4. Define immigrant students' integration as a priority on the design of your school project.
5. Communicate with the local community and the educational sector, tell them what you are doing and achieving on this behalf.

Publications

From the School safety Net Portal

- [School Practices and Equity](#)
The study, written by Benoît De Waele (Belgium) and published by (SeGEC), explores local experiences to find out practices that could lead to a school dynamics that is favourable to school results.
- ["Melting classes" Journey through the interculturality school \(« Melting classes » Voyage à l'école de l'interculturalité\)](#)
The book, written by Annick Bonnefond (Coord. at "ChanGements pour l'Égalité") (Belgium), proposes a five-step path in the country of interculturality, inviting all stakeholders involved to view the multicultural dimension positively as it has become a characteristics of our societies.
- [An Intercultural School – Citizenship, participation and interaction: the resources of a multicultural society](#)
This volume is the result of a participatory planning process involving different schools of all levels in the Province of Grosseto (Italy).
- [Per una scuola dell'inclusione \(A comprehensive school\)](#)
The analysis of the integration process of immigrant minors in the education system, written by Graziella Favaro (Italy), shows 5 critical issues.

Training Sources

From the School safety Net Portal

- [Immigrant Children and Youth: Enabling Their Success at School](#)
The paper, written by Howard Adelman and Linda Taylor, mainly deals with immigrant children and youth. This short article focuses on what is necessary for school improvement policy and practice.
- [DASPA, Service to welcome and educate newly arrived students](#)
Ministry of compulsory education – Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles
- [Strategies for Success: Engaging Immigrant Students in Secondary Schools](#)
Aída Walqui, West Ed (San Francisco, California)
- [Webinar: Opening Doors: Innovative Strategies for Immigrant](#)
Cities of Migration hosted a webinar to learn about winning educational strategies and practical lessons for immigrant student success.
- [Preparing the Children of Immigrants for Early Academic Success](#)
This paper, written by Robert Crosnoe, mainly touch on three types of interventions which might reduce disparities between the children who were born in the United States, and their counterparts.
- [Breaking down the barriers to immigrant students' success at school](#)
The article, written by Marilyn Achiron, focuses on education which is one of the best ways of integrating immigrant children and their families into their new home countries.

Reports

- [Les défis de l'intégration à l'école](#)
Recommendations of the High Council for Integration on religious expression in the spaces.
- [Donner la parole aux jeunes](#)
Report on ill-accompanied children by the general delegate for children's rights in French-speaking Belgium, November 2011 (Belgium).