



# SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE STUDENTS:

Fostering a Safe and Inclusive Learning  
Environment in California's PreK-12 Schools



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This resource was made possible through the generous funding and support from the The California Endowment, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

We would like to thank the Loyola Marymount University Center for Equity for English Learners (CEEL) team for creating the lesson plans and supporting materials: lead writer Gisela O'Brien, Ph.D., CEEL Biliteracy & English Learner Education Specialist, Affiliated Faculty, Department of Educational Leadership; Elvira G. Armas, Ed.D., CEEL Director of Programs and Partnerships, Affiliated Faculty, Department of Educational Leadership; and Magaly Lavadenz, Ph.D., CEEL Executive Director, Professor, Department of Educational Leadership.

We also like to thank Francisco Estrada, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount University Assistant Professor of Educational Support Services for creating the socio-emotional guide.

Finally, we would like to thank Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez for directing the "Support for Immigrant and Refugee Students" project and writing the guide for creating safe and welcoming schools.



---

## CaliforniansTogether

Championing the Success of English Learners

Californians Together is a statewide coalition of parents, teachers, administrators, board members, and civil rights non-profit organizations. Our member organizations come together united around the goal of better educating California's almost 1.4 million English Learners by improving California's schools and promoting equitable educational policy.

©2017, Californians Together

All rights reserved. This publication may be reproduced and adapted for nonprofit educational purposes only. Any adaptations should cite the original work in prominent manner:

Adapted from *Support for Immigrant and Refugee Students Toolkit*, Californians Together & LMU/Center for Equity for English Learners, 2017

## SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE STUDENTS

Dear California Educators,

In order for students of all backgrounds to succeed and to thrive, a safe and inclusive learning environment is essential. Recent developments, including a proposed Muslim travel ban and a ramping up of immigration enforcement activities, have created an atmosphere of xenophobia not seen in the United States for many decades.

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, and other hate-based incidents in schools have risen sharply—and this disturbing trend is creating anxiety and fear for children, youth, and families from immigrant and refugee backgrounds, including those who are second- and third-generation Americans. Schools are witnessing firsthand the impact of these developments, and many are grappling with how best to respond.

Across California and the country, many school districts, schools, and school staff are taking affirmative and proactive steps to ensure that immigrant students and families feel safe and welcome within their schools and communities.

Our teachers are on the front line, having to respond to students who come to school fearful and stressed from what is happening in their communities and what they hear in their homes. We hope that the lesson plans, socio-emotional guide and resources contained within this toolkit are a valuable source of information and support, enabling our teachers to address the issues facing our students and their families. Teachers will have the tools to respond academically and emotionally to their students, one-on-one and within the school instructional program. We know these materials in this manual will encourage schools to be the safe and welcoming spaces that all of our students deserve.

We would like to thank The California Endowment, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for making this project possible with their generous donations.

Sincerely,



**Shelly Spiegel-Coleman**  
*Executive Director, Californians Together*

## SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE STUDENTS

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Classroom Lesson Modules Trainer of Trainers Manual .....	TAB 1
Presentation Slides.....	TAB 2
Training Resources .....	TAB 3
Classroom Lesson Modules: Grades K-2.....	TAB 4
Classroom Lesson Modules: Grades 3-5.....	TAB 5
Classroom Lesson Modules: Grades 6-12.....	TAB 6
A Guide to Support Immigrant and Refugee Students' Socio – Emotional Experiences.....	TAB 7
A Guide to Safe and Welcoming Schools for Immigrant and Refugee Students .....	TAB 8
Appendix/Resources .....	TAB 9