

Immigrant Family Engagement

AN INTRODUCTION

WITH LAURA GARDNER, MSW



Laura Gardner - Bio

- ▶ Founder, Immigrant Connections
 - ▶ www.immigrantsrefugeesandschools.org
 - ▶ Facilitate face to face and online workshops/courses
 - ▶ Consulting & coaching
- ▶ District ELL Family Engagement Manager
- ▶ School social worker
- ▶ BRYCS / refugee work



Objectives



Participants will

- ▶ Recognize the different types of immigration statuses and why a basic understanding of these is important
- ▶ Gain awareness of the journeys, strengths, and challenges of immigrant families, particularly in regards to their interactions with schools
- ▶ Identify best practices for outreach

Definitions

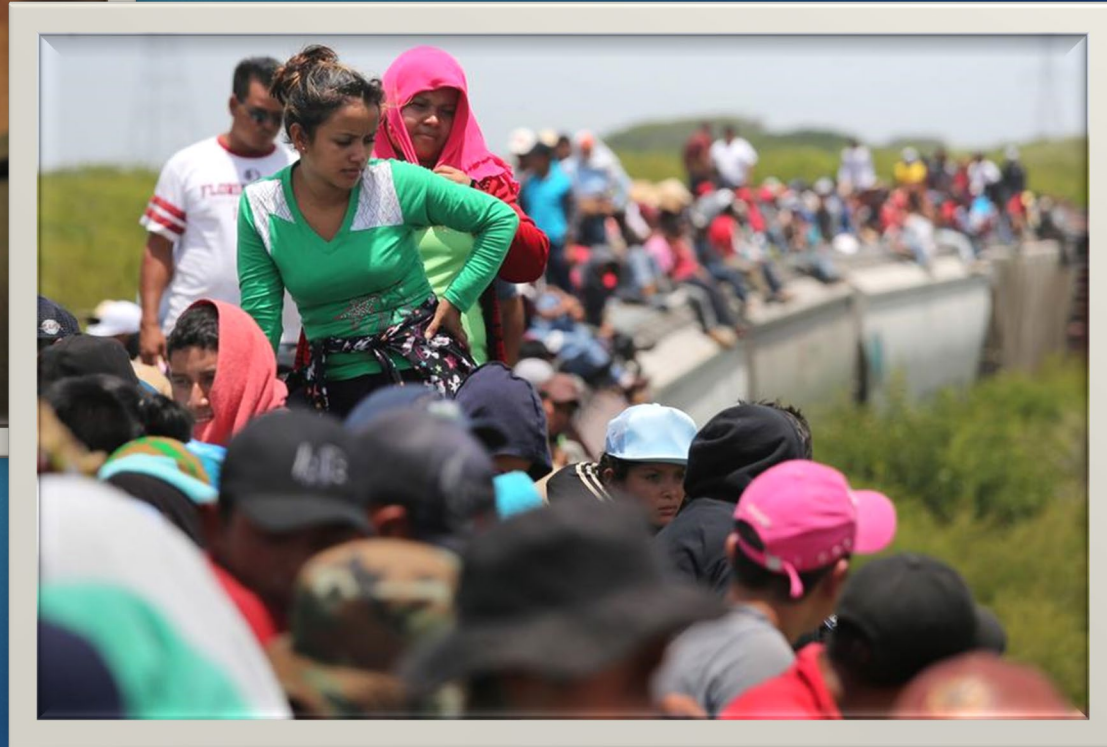


- Immigrant
- Refugee
- Asylum-seeker / Asylee
- Migrant
- Undocumented
- Mixed Status

Examples of their Journeys



Reed Saxon/AP



John Moore / Getty Images

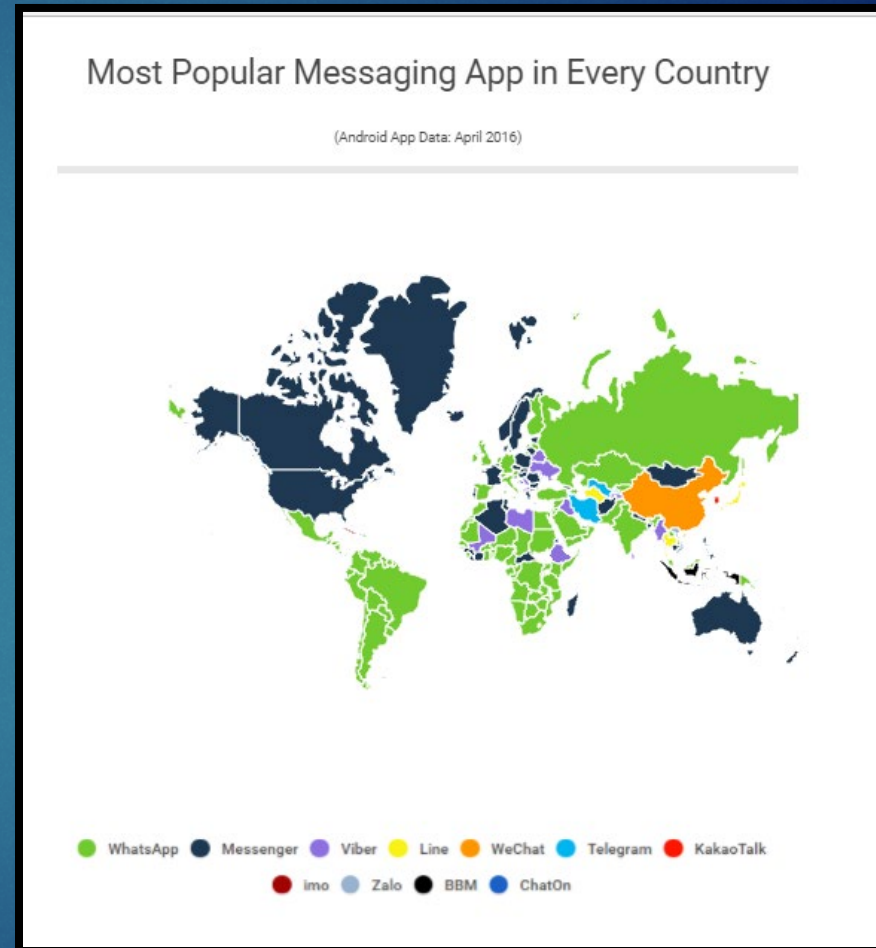
Possible Barriers for Immigrant Families

- ▶ Not feeling welcome
- ▶ Differing cultural views
- ▶ Language barriers
- ▶ Literacy levels
- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Lack of school resources/personnel to connect with families
- ▶ Negative or limited experiences with schools



Best Practices for Outreach

- ▶ Each community has preferred methods
 - ▶ Chinese – We Chat
 - ▶ Korean – KakaoTalk
 - ▶ Hispanic – WhatsApp & Facebook
- ▶ Phone calls & *personal* invitations
- ▶ Flyers can't be only method
- ▶ Remember language access!



Family engagement is a field!

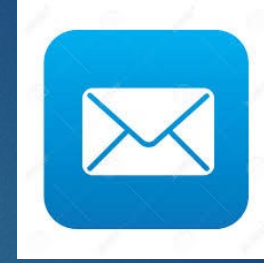
Check out my online course to learn more about:

- ▶ Family engagement theories and frameworks currently being used by the U.S. Department of Education and other national, state, and local “players”
- ▶ The impact of family engagement on student achievement and how to ensure what you’re doing is linked to learning
- ▶ Add strategies to your toolbox for welcoming, orienting, and providing interpretation/translation services for families
- ▶ Strategies for increasing the capacity of immigrant families and school staff for engaging in partnerships

Contact us!

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