

Pilot Program: Enhancing Settlement Support for Immigrant Youth in Schools (grades 8-12)

Funding Source: Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development – Immigration Integration Branch

This pilot program is in addition to the SWIS Program, and the goal of the Immigration Integration Branch is to build upon the success of SWIS, which is also funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.

- SWIS is primarily focused on addressing initial settlement and adjustment needs.
- This program recognizes that some students face settlement-related issues that may impact upon their learning beyond their initial months or year of arrival in Canada.

This pilot in-school support service program has been designed to:

- Increase school and community connectedness for the immigrant student
- Enable the immigrant student to overcome learning and school adjustment issues related to their immigration experience and cultural adjustment process; and
- Increase their chance for continued schooling and meaningful transition to other options.

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development – Immigration Integration Branch and Ministry of Education recognize that further targeted funding is necessary to encourage the enhancement and expansion of in-school support that could increase the success of more vulnerable immigrant students.

Funding is for specialized services above and beyond regular programs currently available in the school.

This unique position will deal solely with secondary age grades 8-12 Immigrant youth including refugees new to Canada primarily within the last 3 years. The youth must qualify for educational funding through the Ministry of Education. There will be a maximum of 15 students involved in this program.

The teacher will be supervised by the District Principal, Student Support Services.

Service Elements

The Secondary Teacher provides a coordinated and integrated set of support services that include:

- Ongoing needs assessment, planning and support that are culturally appropriate and specific to the needs of immigrant students who have arrived with language and/or education gaps.
- Specialized support to overcome settlement and adaptation issues resulting from cultural adjustments and/or traumatic experiences before and during immigration.
- A combination of training courses on some or all of the following content depending on the needs of the specific target group:
 - School and Workplace literacy and skills relevant to Canadian society
 - Labour market information and job search skills
 - Canadian culture including norms, values, social responsibilities, educational and learning opportunities in BC, and workplace culture, beyond the regular orientation.
 - Life skills including social, communication, decision making, goal achievement, and problem solving skills necessary for successful living in a new social and cultural environment
 - Soft skills that are relevant to Canadian society, including social responsibility, self-esteem, sociability, self-management, and interpersonal skills such as ability to participate as a team member, exercise leadership and work with cultural diversity.

