

Settlement Workers In Schools Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who is a SWIS worker?

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) provide settlement services to the immigrant families and students in Rocky View Schools. The goal of the program is to support positive settlement for newcomer families and foster student integration into schools and achievement. This includes providing needed information and referrals to needed resources in the community and school. The SWIS Worker provides school orientation to newcomer parents and students as well as assisting the schools in working with the newcomer population.

SWIS Worker's Core Activities:

- Outreach to newly arrived families registering in schools
- Settlement support for students, parents and families, including needs assessment and settlement action plan.
- Promoting cross-cultural understanding and facilitating communication
- Bridging with service providers and community activities

2. When do I involve a SWIS worker?

The best time to involve a SWIS worker is when a new immigrant family comes in to register their child with your school. At this point the referral form can be filled out and sent to your community SWIS worker, as well as arrangements made for the worker to come in and meet with the family at your school. After this initial meeting, the SWIS worker will schedule any further follow-up appointments if need be.

Schools may also choose to invite SWIS workers to staff meetings. This allows the opportunity for your SWIS worker to personally introduce themselves and familiarize the school with the intake process and services.

3. What kind of ongoing support do SWIS workers offer students following their orientation?

SWIS workers can help schools and teachers with cultural interpretations, support and referrals and working to liaison between the family and school if re-settlement issues arise.

4. Are there age restrictions on students that can be referred to the program?

Students of any school age (elementary-high school) can be referred to our program.

5. Are private and catholic schools eligible for SWIS services?

The target population of our Rocky View SWIS Services is Permanent Resident students and their families. Our Rocky View Immigrant Services (Community Services) are available to all immigrants (those in other school systems or families without children) and can be accessed during drop in hours for support or by appointment (403-604-2377).

6. What information do you need from us to register the student with your program?

Please fill out all the information on the referral form. Upon the first meeting at the school, we will require the parents to bring their Permanent Resident cards (or Confirmation of Permanent Residence/landing papers) as well as their child's. After this, a file will be opened for the family.