

**DATE:** January 24, 2023

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Response to Request for Information #012  
Refugee and Displaced Students

**ORIGINATOR:** Todd Burnstad, Chief Financial Officer  
Cliff Richard, Chief Infrastructure and Technology Officer

**RESOURCE  
STAFF:** Husna Foda, Drew Horn, Bob Morter, Terry Korte

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**ISSUE**

At the November 29, 2022 Board meeting, Trustee Hole requested the following information:

Provide a breakdown of the number of students fleeing persecution and/or global conflicts who are new to the Division for the 2022-2023 school year. Specifically, include data on the number of refugee students and their countries of origin and the number of displaced students from the Ukraine and elsewhere, if applicable. Include a breakdown of those who arrived on or before the September count date and those who arrived afterwards and include information regarding the funding of these students.

**BACKGROUND**

Shortly after the start of the war in Ukraine, the Government of Canada developed a program to facilitate entry to Canada for families impacted by the Russian invasion. This program is known as Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET). Families entering Canada under this program have CUAET referenced on their Canadian entry documents. Alberta Education has requested that these students be identified by the use of an Enrolment Type code of 600 – Displaced Students. The vast majority of these students would have a birth country of Ukraine or nationality of Ukrainian. However, we have enrolled some students this year who entered the country under the CUAET program but may have a different nationality or birth country.

The students arriving under the CUAET Program are categorized as “displaced” students as opposed to being categorized as refugee or refugee claimants.

Alberta Education provides additional funding for students identified as refugee. This funding is in addition to base funding. Prior to two years ago, students who entered Canada as a refugee and those who entered as a refugee claimant were considered refugee for the purposes of funding. Recently, only students confirmed as a refugee are eligible for the additional funding. This requires that the student has a specific category referenced on their Confirmation of Permanent Residency, or that the student has a Notice of Decision from the federal government that indicates the refugee claim has been accepted. Refugee funding is provided for five years.

## CURRENT SITUATION

In addressing this request for information, the data has been divided into three categories:

- Students entering Canada under the CUAET program and identified with Enrolment Type 600 – Displaced students
- Students who entered Canada with refugee status or who obtained status at a later date
- Students who entered Canada as a refugee claimant

Students with the last category are not eligible for refugee coding and subsequent funding. The student's status may change in a future year if the student's refugee claim is confirmed in a Notice of Decision, which would result in an additional grant. Further, the three categories referenced above are divided into those who started school on or before the count date and those who arrived after the count date.

A number of questions specific to the request for information involved detailed funding questions and criteria. Those questions are listed and answered below.

- The type of funding the Division receives from the province to specifically support refugee and displaced students. The below funding is in addition to the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) base allocation.
  - For identified refugee students who started school on or before the count date, these students receive refugee funding for up to five years based on WMA at \$5,500 per student FTE.
  - Other than under the CUAET program displaced students are not eligible for refugee funding.
- Which funds are provided through a separate grant from the provincial government?
  - The Division was notified by Alberta Education that displaced students from Ukraine are being supported through the newly formed "Funding to Support Ukrainian Students" Grant. It is based on a funding rate of \$5,500 per student who was identified and enrolled on the September 2022 count date. Alberta Education will continue to provide funding for Ukrainian students who arrived after the count date from October 2022 through to a second count date on March 1, 2023. Those students will be funded at 50 per cent of the original funding rate.
- Which funding is received as part of the weighted moving average formula?
  - Identified Ukrainian students are part of our "normal" base funding WMA calculation based on their respective grade if they were in attendance on the September count date. They are also included in the English as a Second Language grant WMA, which is funded at \$1,200 per student FTE with eligibility for five years.
- Please provide information on a cut-off date to apply for any special grants received for globally displaced or refugee students, who arrive after September 29.
  - Funding for displaced students who arrive after September 29 will be based on the Division coding the students appropriately in PASI and will not require any additional applications to be submitted or reviewed. The deadline for funding will require coding to be in place by March 1, 2023 for the 50 per cent funding of the "Funding to Support Ukrainian Students" Grant.

- Refugee claimants and refugees who arrive after September 29 will not be funded for the current year.

**KEY POINTS**

- The attached table (Attachment I) provides information on students identified as displaced students, refugees or refugee claimants.
- The table only includes students new to the Division this year.
- 826 students are referenced in the table, 259 were included in the September count and 567 arrived after the count.
- The largest nationality identified in the data is Ukrainian at 309 students followed by Afghan at 115 students and Syrian at 114 students. Collectively, this represents 65 per cent of students referenced in the attachment.

**ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT I New to Division – Displaced, Refugee and Refugee Claimant Students as of December 2, 2022

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**New to Division - Displaced, Refugee and Refugee Claimant Students as of Dec 2, 2022**  
**(Revised on April 12, 2023)**

Birth Country Name	Displaced Students			Refugee Students			Refugee Claimants			Total by Birth Country
	Present on Sep 29	Arrived after Sep 29	Total as of Dec 2	Present on Sep 29	Arrived after Sep 29	Total as of Dec 2	Present on Sep 29	Arrived after Sep 29	Total as of Dec 2	
Afghanistan				85	29	114	1		1	115
Angola				1		1				1
Bahamas							3		3	3
Burundi				3	3	6				6
Colombia							2		2	2
Congo				1		1				1
Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The				5	1	6				6
Cuba				2		2				2
Egypt	1		1	4		4	2		2	7
Eritrea				23	15	38				38
Ethiopia				11	3	14				14
Georgia		1	1							1
India				1		1		1	1	2
Iran, Islamic Republic Of				3		3				3
Iraq				9	3	12				12
Israel				6	2	8				8
Jordan				4		4				4
Kenya				12	1	13				13
Lebanon	1		1	5	4	9		1	1	11
Libya				4	7	11				11
Malawi				1		1				1
Mexico	2		2	1		1	2		2	5
Nigeria				1	1	2	1		1	3
Pakistan				1	1	2	2		2	4
Russian Federation	1	1	2							2
Rwanda					1	1				1
Saint Vincent And The Grenadines				1		1				1
Saudi Arabia				4	5	9	5	2	7	16
Somalia				29	8	37				37
South Africa				2		2		1	1	3
Spain	1		1							1
Sri Lanka	1		1							1
Sudan				13	1	14	1	2	3	17
Syrian Arab Republic				73	41	114				114
Tajikistan					2	2				2
Tunisia	1		1							1
Turkey	1		1	11	3	14	2	8	10	25
Turkmenistan							1		1	1
Uganda				2	1	3	4		4	7
Ukraine	205	104	309							309
United Arab Emirates	1		1	1	2	3				4
United States	1		1				1		1	2
Venezuela							2		2	2
Yemen					3	3				3
Zimbabwe				3		3		1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>826</b>