

DATE: March 5, 2024

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Request for Information #020
Students Fleeing Persecution and/or Global Conflicts

ORIGINATOR: Todd Burnstad, Chief Financial Officer

**RESOURCE
STAFF:** Husna Foda, Bob Morter, Jennifer Price, Leanne Spelman

ISSUE

At the February 6, 2024 Board meeting, Trustee Estabrooks requested the following information:

Could administration please provide a breakdown of the number of students fleeing persecution and/or global conflicts who are new to the Division for the 2023-2024 school year. Specifically, include data on the number of refugee students and their countries of origin. 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

As detailed in the [Request for Information #012 - Refugee and Displaced Students](#), during the 2022-2023 school year, The Division was notified by Alberta Education that displaced students from Ukraine would be supported through a "Displaced Student" Grant. This grant provided \$5,500 per student who was identified and enrolled on the September 2022 count date, and \$2,750 (50 per cent) for eligible Ukrainian students who arrived after the count date from October 2022 through to a second count date on March 1, 2023. This Displaced Student Grant was discontinued and is not available in the current 2023-2024 school year.

Students fleeing persecution and/or global conflicts can enter Canada as a Permanent Resident, refugee or refugee claimant; however, only students confirmed as a refugee are eligible for additional funding (in addition to base instruction 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.

Refugee claimant students 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.

CURRENT SITUATION

In addressing this request for information, funding information has been provided for eligible refugee students based on if they started school on or before the count date and those who arrived after the count date based on the 2023-2024 Funding Manual. Refugee funding is in addition to base instruction funding.

- The refugee student grant is allocated to school jurisdictions to provide additional language, social and educational supports to refugee students. This funding is in addition to the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) base allocation.
- The Refugee Student Grant will be allocated based on a WMA of the number of students presenting documentation from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada that confirms refugee status.
- Once a child/student is coded as a Refugee Child/Student, they will be included in the Refugee Student Grant WMA FTE calculation for up to five consecutive years.
- Children/Students will be included in the WMA FTE calculation for up to a maximum of five years for the Refugee Student and EAL/Francisation grants combined, irrespective of any moves between school jurisdictions.
- A child included in the WMA enrolment calculation for the SLS Kindergarten Severe Grant shall not be included in the WMA enrolment calculation for refugee and English as an Additional Language/Francisation funding.

For refugee students who started school on or before the 2023-2024 count date:

- Children enrolled in Kindergarten receive refugee funding based on WMA 0.5 FTE at \$3,025
- Students enrolled in grades 1-12 receive refugee funding based on WMA FTE at \$6,050

For refugee students who started school after the 2023-2024 count date:

- Refugee students who arrive after September 29 will not be funded for the current year; however, they will be included in the WMA calculation (for Refugee and Base Instruction and any other eligible grants) effective for the 2024-2025 school year).

For all other students fleeing persecution and/or global conflicts who are not eligible for refugee funding, funding is provided consistently with our other students and is only available if they are included in the count date. Students arriving after the count date will be included in the following year's WMA calculation.

KEY POINTS

- Attachment I provides information on students identified as refugees.
- The table only includes students new to the Division this year.
- Of the 1567 students referenced in the table, 834 were included in the September count and 733 arrived after the count.
- The largest nationality identified in the data is Ukrainian at 434 students followed by Syrian at 191 students and Afghani at 108 students. Collectively, this represents 47 per cent of students referenced in the attachment.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I New to Division – Refugee Students as of February 26, 2024

TB:ja

New to Division - Displaced, Refugee and Refugee Claimant Students as of Feb 24, 2024

Birth Country Name	Displaced Students			Refugee Students			Refugee Claimants			Total by Birth Country
	Present on Sep 29	Arrived after Sep 29	Total as of Feb 24	Present on Sep 29	Arrived after Sep 29	Total as of Feb 24	Present on Sep 29	Arrived after Sep 29	Total as of Feb 24	
Afghanistan				55	48	103	3	2	5	108
Algeria	1		1					1	1	2
Australia								1	1	1
Bahamas				1	1	2	1	1	2	4
Bangladesh							4		4	4
Brazil							1		1	1
Burundi				2	1	3				3
Cameroon								2	2	2
Chile							1	1	2	2
China							5	3	8	8
Colombia				1	1	2	2	3	5	7
Congo				2	2	4				4
Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The				6	6	12				12
Cote D'Ivoire								1	1	1
Egypt				6	4	10	1	1	2	12
Eritrea				31	31	62		1	1	63
Ethiopia				25	22	47	3	2	5	52
Germany							2		2	2
Ghana							1	1	2	2
Haiti					1	1		1	1	2
Hong Kong							1		1	1
India							25	24	49	49
Iran, Islamic Republic Of				1		1	1	2	3	4
Iraq				3	1	4		1	1	5
Israel	1	1	2	14	6	20	1	2	3	25
Italy	3		3				1		1	4
Jamaica								5	5	5
Jordan				4	8	12	1	1	2	14
Kenya				7	15	22	2		2	24
Kuwait							3		3	3
Lebanon	1		1	12	17	29		2	2	32
Liberia					2	2				2
Libya				3	1	4	3		3	7
Malaysia				2		2		1	1	3
Mauritania					2	2				2
Mauritius							1		1	1
Mexico				2	1	3	6	6	12	15
Myanmar				2		2				2
Namibia				1		1				1
Netherlands					2	2				2
Nigeria				4		4	10	5	15	19
Norway		1	1							1
Pakistan	2		2		3	3	2	7	9	14
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	1	2	3				1	2	3	6
Peru					1	1		1	1	2
Philippines							8	7	15	15
Qatar				2		2		1	1	3
Russian Federation	4	2	6		1	1				7
Rwanda				4	1	5				5
Saudi Arabia				2	2	4	3	1	4	8
Senegal					1	1				1
Somalia				34	32	66				66
South Africa				4	2	6			1	7
Sri Lanka							1		1	1
Sudan				5	19	24	5		5	29
Sweden					1	1	1		1	2
Switzerland		1	1							1
Syrian Arab Republic				99	87	186	3	2	5	191
Tanzania, United Republic Of					2	2				2
Thailand					1	1				1
Tunisia							1	1	2	2
Turkey		1	1	13	5	18	5	10	15	34
Turkmenistan		2	2							2
Uganda				5	10	15	1	5	6	21
Ukraine	241	191	432		2	2				434
United Arab Emirates				2		2	3	2	5	7
United Kingdom	1		1					1	1	2
United States	1		1	1		1	5	3	8	10
Unknown	1	7	8	81	50	131	9	12	21	160
Venezuela				1		1		4	4	5
Viet Nam							6	1	7	7
Yemen				3		3		1	1	4
Zambia				1	1	2				2
Zimbabwe					1	1	2		2	3
Grand Total	257	208	465	441	394	835	136	131	267	1567