

Quiz for Teachers About Immigration and the Schools

Answer True or False

- ___ 1. There are more immigrant students in elementary than in secondary schools.
- ___ 2. Undocumented students are more likely to be enrolled in secondary than elementary school.
- ___ 3. The majority of immigrant students nationally and in Minnesota come from Mexico.
- ___ 4. Children of immigrants represent a growing group of students in school and students in poverty.
- ___ 5. Children of immigrants are most likely foreign born themselves.
- ___ 6. Limited English Proficient students in high school receive ESL or bilingual services at the same rate as their elementary counterparts.
- ___ 7. Academic English can take up to 4 years to acquire.
- ___ 8. Undocumented students have the legal right to participate in all K-12 public school programs.
- ___ 9. Undocumented students are eligible for in-state tuition at MN public colleges, as well as similar scholarship and loan programs as native-born students.
- ___ 10. Limited English Proficient students are exempt from some statewide assessments under NCLB.
- ___ 11. Minnesota's school-age immigrant population has risen at a comparable rate to the rest of the nation.
- ___ 12. There are an estimated 11-12 million undocumented people in the U.S. though they make up less than 1% of Minnesota's population.
- ___ 13. Approximately 45% of undocumented persons entered legally but overstayed their visas.
- ___ 14. Most applicants willing to wait patiently and contribute to the good of the U.S. through their labor will eventually qualify under current law to immigrate to the U.S. legally.
- ___ 15. The majority of Hispanics/Latinos in Minnesota are Mexican.

_____ 16. When refugees are resettled in the United States, the federal government pays for their transportation and gives them a one-time cash allotment of \$1,000.

Bonus Question:

Minnesota ranks among all of the states as either first or second for the number of which of these groups of immigrants? Circle all of the correct responses.

Indians Canadians Hmong Tibetans Togolese Cambodians
Liberians Somalis Mexicans Oromo

Answers

1. False - There are more immigrant students in secondary schools. Immigrant children make up 5.7% of high school students and 3.5% of elementary students. Recently arrived represent a larger share of secondary schools as well (2.7% vs 2.0%)
2. True - Undocumented students are more likely to be enrolled in secondary than elementary school. 1.5% of children PK-5th are undocumented; 3% of secondary students are undocumented. (Undocumented parents 5% and 4% respectively)
3. True - The majority of immigrant students nationally and in Minnesota come from Mexico. In 2000 over 38% of foreign-born elementary school children were born in Mexico. Based on the 2000 census in Pre-K through 5th grade 355,000 students were born in Mexico followed by Indian students at 32,000 and in grades 6-12 there were 879,000 Mexican students trailed by Philippino students in second place with 82,000. In Minnesota data from 2004, Latino students (not divided by country, though Mexico would be expected to be the majority) were numbered 38,640 followed by Hmong students at 21,613. The Minnesota statistics account for the ethnicity of the family not technically for immigrant status of the children.
4. True - Children of immigrants represent a growing group of students in school and students in poverty. One in 5 children under 18 is the child of an immigrant. This figure has tripled within a generation. One of 4 low income children were children of immigrants.
5. False - $\frac{3}{4}$ of all children of immigrants are native-born, making them US citizens.
6. False - Limited English Proficient students in high school do not receive ESL or bilingual services at the same rate as their elementary counterparts. One reason could be the limits to state funding for ELL, such as Minnesota where a state-funded ELL services are available for 5 years per student.
7. False - Academic English can take up to 4-7 years to acquire in the best of circumstances.
8. True - Undocumented students have the legal right to participate in all K-12 public school programs based on Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Supreme Court Plyler vs. Doe decision in 1982.
9. False - Undocumented students are limited for in-state tuition at MN public colleges, as well as similar scholarship and loan programs as native-born students. While the Minnesota Dream Act has been gaining support and the list of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities that have similar tuition rates for resident and non-resident students is growing, there is still extremely limited access.
10. False - No state may exempt ELL students from statewide assessments. They must be included as soon as they enroll. Accommodations may be made for ELLs including native language tests or instructions, extra time or small group administration. All ELL students must take the reading an language arts assessments in English within the first 5 years of enrolling in a U.S. school.

Math and science assessments may be taken in native languages for an unlimited number of times.

11. False - Minnesota's school-age immigrant population has risen at a much higher rate than the rest of the nation. In 2000 in PK-5 10% of Minnesota students were children of immigrants, a 78% change since 1990, the 11th largest change in the nation. The same year in 6-12th grade, 9% of students were children of immigrants, a 136% change since 1990 ranking us 4th nationally.
12. True - There are an estimated 11-12 million undocumented people in the U.S. though they make up less than 1% of Minnesota's population.
13. True - Approximately 45% of undocumented persons entered legally but overstayed their visas.
14. False (though some might say this is a trick question) Sixty percent of those people who identify themselves as Hispanics/Latinos in Minnesota were born in the U.S. Of the foreign born Latinos, Mexicans make up the highest number of those coming to Minnesota.
15. False - When refugees are resettled in the United States, the federal government issues a no-interest loan for their transportation which must be repaid and gives them a one-time cash allotment of \$425. As refugees, they may qualify for other government assistance programs.
16. **Bonus Question:** Minnesota ranks among all of the states as either first or second for the number of which of these groups of immigrants
Hmong (2nd) Tibetans (2nd) Liberians (1st or 2nd – unverified) Somalis (1st) Oromo (an ethnic minority group from Ethiopia – 1st)