



Supporting Immigrants in Schools Video Series

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULE

## Glossary



## The following definitions describe the way each of these terms are used in the CUNY-IIE Professional Development Modules:

**Accomplice:** Someone who stands and works with marginalized groups, often to dismantle large scale institutional structures and systemic barriers that perpetuate oppression. Can also be referred to as a co-conspirator.

**Advocate:** To provide active support to an individual or group so that they receive equal rights, treatment and/or support.

**Ally:** Someone who is outside of a particular marginalized group, but works to support individuals from that group so they are treated in an equitable manner.

**Asylum Seeker/Asylee:** An individual in the United States or at a port of entry who is afraid to return to their home country due to an actual or well founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Applications for asylum take place in the US and are granted infrequently. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the US.

**Authentic Literature:** Texts that are created by directly-impacted authors or those from a specific background that address real-life issues as well as everyday ones. Authentic literature should also be culturally relevant and sustaining.

**Bilingual Education:** An educational program that gained prominence during the civil rights era for students to learn in and through English and their home language. These programs were originally geared toward immigrant and US-born emergent bilingual students who require services for English proficiency, but their reach has expanded.

**Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (BRIA):** The New York state agency responsible for the implementation of services to refugees. (Also called Refugee Services or RF within the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance)

**Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students (CLD):** An umbrella term that includes students who do not fall within the mainstream in terms of their culture, immigration status and/or English proficiency.

**Community-Based Organizations (CBO):** A non-profit organization built by the community and for the community. CBOs work on the local level to improve the lives of the community; members include local leaders, volunteers, and stakeholders in these organizations.

**College and Career Readiness:** The set of skills, behaviors, and knowledge that students require in order to be successful in their chosen post-secondary environment.

**College and Career Access:** The set of services and supports provided by institutions that remove barriers and structure opportunities for students to select, apply to, and ultimately participate in a post-secondary plan to study and/or work.

**Commissioner's Regulations Part 154 (CR Part 154):** The regulations that govern identification, placement, assessment, and services of and for students who speak a language other than English at home.

**Community Circles:** A restorative approach to developing trust and understanding that is rooted in indigenous practices. Generally the circle structure allows for a safe and systematic way for people to share their views or stories, where one person speaks at a time without interruption.

**Counter Storytelling:** A way to center the voices and experiences of people who are often silenced in society. The stories go against mainstream narratives and challenge commonly held conceptions about power and privilege along the lines and at the intersection of race, gender and migration, among other areas.

**Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogy:** A framework that centers students' backgrounds and views them as strengths from which to learn. This approach teaches students to become socially and politically conscious and able to view the world through multiple and critical perspectives.

**Deportation:** The formal and often forced removal of someone, usually a foreign national, from the US for violating immigration law.

**Detention:** The practice of incarcerating immigrants while they await a determination of their immigration status or potential deportation.

**Deportation Center:** A jail-like building with conditions that are often inhumane where immigrants are held as they await their hearings to determine if they will be permitted to stay in the country.

**Deportation Hearing:** A court proceeding where a non-citizen gets the chance to present arguments before an Immigration Judge and defend their right to remain in the United States. The Immigration Judge makes the final decision to either allow the non-citizen to remain in the US or be deported to their country of origin.

**Directly Impacted:** A person who has experienced a specific situation or whose background gives them first-hand knowledge.

**Displaced Person:** An umbrella term that describes all people who have had to leave their homes as a result of a natural, technological, or deliberate event. This term includes refugees, asylees, and internally displaced persons.

**Dignity for All Students Act (DASA):** A New York State act signed into law in 2012 to provide all students, including immigrant-origin students, with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying (including cyberbullying).

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA):** In 2012, the Department of Homeland Security provided temporary relief from deportation and work authorization to approximately 800,000 eligible young people allowing them to work lawfully, attend schools and live without the imminent risk of deportation. DACA does not provide permanent legal status and must be renewed every two years. In 2017, the Trump administration attempted to end DACA; however a 2020 Supreme Court decision determined that the attempt to close the program was arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act.

**Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act):** A bipartisan federal proposal introduced in 2001 which would have granted temporary and conditional residency to qualifying immigrants who entered the US as minors and provided a path to citizenship for them. Several iterations of this bill have been put forth, but they have failed to pass both houses of Congress.

**Dream Team:** A student club, usually at high school or college level, that focuses on undocumented and immigrant justice. It is also a space created by students to discuss their immigrant experiences with like-minded individuals, share resources and advocate for themselves and their peers.

**English Language Learner (ELL):** A federal, bureaucratic term for students learning English. However, we refer to students as multilingual learners or emergent bilinguals in order to be more responsive to students' linguistic backgrounds that look beyond their English proficiency. It's important to note that not all students labeled as ELLs are immigrants and not all immigrants are ELLs.

**Emergent Bilinguals:** A label that takes into account a students' linguistic background to highlight that they are not only learning English as a new language, but that they also speak a home language that puts them on the path to becoming bilingual or multilingual.

**Entrepreneur:** An individual who starts and runs their own business.

**English as a New Language (ENL):** A program for multilingual learners to receive support in learning English in K-12 schools in New York. These classes can be self-contained with only multilingual students or students can receive ENL services in content area classes as they learn language and content simultaneously.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):** A federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the US Department of Education. FERPA also protects undocumented students' information from being handed over to federal officials like US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**Federal Financial Aid:** Student tuition aid provided by the US federal government that includes grants, loans, and work-study programs.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** An on-line form to qualify for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans. Many states and colleges also use FAFSA information to determine eligibility for state and school aid, and some private financial aid providers may use FAFSA information to determine whether students qualify for their aid.

**Funds of Knowledge:** The cultural practices and knowledge that are embedded in the daily practices of families (González, Moll, & Amanti, 2005). Immigrants have had their practices discounted in school settings. However, a Funds of Knowledge approach views the cultural knowledge of minoritized people as central to student learning.

**Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA):** A student club at the secondary level that centers the experiences of people with different sexual orientations and gender identities and advocates to end homophobia and transphobia.

**Group Share:** When students work with partners and in small groups, it is important that there is time for these small groups or partners to share with the large group an aspect of their collaborative work.

**Heterogeneous Grouping:** The strategic and intentional arrangement of student grouping is essential to teaching and learning. This approach goes beyond rigid and static grouping and centers the purpose of the lesson and need of students to create diverse and flexible structures.

**Immigrant:** A person who leaves their country of origin to live in a new country.

**Immigrant Justice:** A broad series of movements across legal, medical, social, economic, and educational contexts that seek to transform structures that criminalize and dehumanize immigrants. Immigrant justice describes the equitable provision of rights and opportunities to immigrants and all people who are marginalized on the basis of race, disability, sexuality, gender, class, and religion.

**Immigrant-origin:** An umbrella term for students who were born in another country and those who are US-born to immigrant parents.

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** A federal agency within the Department of Homeland Security that was created in 2003 as part of the government's reorganization after the September 11, 2001 attacks. ICE arrests, detains, and deports unauthorized immigrants inside the United States.

**Immigration Status:** How the federal government defines the way in which a person is present in the United States. Everyone has a status such as: US Citizen, Legal Permanent Resident, Asylee or Refugee, Non-Immigrant or Visa holder, Temporary Protection Status, and Undocumented.

**Informal/Journal Writing:** This type of writing engagement encourages the writer to become more independent, to gain fluency, to avoid self judgement, to wonder, to search, to reflect. It allows the writer to utilize writing as a tool for thinking. It enhances self-awareness, the ability to make connections, to examine the self; it helps writers to figure out what they want to say and learn to say it with voice. It does not require perfect spelling or punctuation. It does not need to be graded on completeness.

**In-state Tuition:** The rate paid by students with a permanent residence in the state in which their university is located. In-state tuition is subsidized by state taxes and therefore lower than out-of-state tuition.

**Independent Contractor:** A self-employed individual who is contracted to produce a specific type of work in a determined amount of time. All immigrants are able to work as independent contractors or start a business using either a social security number or an individual tax ID number (ITIN), which is available to immigrants regardless of legal status. For more information see New York State Youth Leadership Council's (NYSYLC's) [“The Non-Citizen’s Guide to Entrepreneurship”](#)

**Individual taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN):** Issued to residents with foreign status and to undocumented immigrants. An ITIN is often used on tax forms as undocumented immigrants cannot be issued a social security number.

**Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** Someone forced to flee their home, but who has not crossed a national border to find safety. IDPs stay within their own country and remain under the protection of their own government, even if that government is the reason for their displacement.

**Lawful permanent resident (LPR):** Someone who has been granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis, and in most cases to eventually become a US citizen. There are several ways to get LPR status. The following are the most common:

- Family-based Visa: LPRs and US citizens can petition for certain family members to be granted legal status in the US
- Employment-based Visa: Employers can petition to give employees legal status in the US
- Diversity-based Visa: A visa that a limited number of people from designated countries can win through a lottery.

- **Humanitarian Visa:** A visa that allows a person to become a lawful permanent resident because they suffered some harm or were a victim of a crime. The most common humanitarian visas include the following statuses; refugee, asylee, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioner, T visa for a victim of human trafficking, U visa for a crime victim, or special immigrant juvenile status (SIJ) for minors who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by a parent.

**Migrant:** Someone who moves by choice or force in order to improve their or their family's lives (ex. work, education, family reunification).

**Mixed-Status:** Families composed of members with varying legal statuses that may include both citizen and non-citizen parents and/or children; ex. a family where some (or all) of the children have birthright citizenship and at least one parent is a undocumented.

**Multilingual Learner (ML):** A label used to describe students who speak languages other than English and who are in the process of learning English in K-12 schools.

**Naturalized Citizen:** A foreign national who wants to become a citizen of the US may apply to become a naturalized citizen after having fulfilled the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). A person is generally required to have lawful permanent resident status for a number of years or be a member of the US military before they will be eligible to naturalize. The naturalization process requires an application, fees and passing a test of English and civics.

**New York State DREAM Act (also known as The Senator José Peralta NYS DREAM Act):** Passed in 2019, the act provides undocumented and other immigrant students access to New York State-administered grants and scholarships to support their higher education cost. It was originally written in 2010 by the New York State Youth Leadership Council in response to the failure of the Federal DREAM Act.

**New York State Youth Leadership Council (NYSYLC):** The first undocumented, youth-led organization in the State of New York. For more information: [www.nysylc.org](http://www.nysylc.org)

**Out-of-State Tuition:** The increased tuition rate that students who reside outside a state pay to attend a public college.



**Pair/Share (Turn and Talk or Think-Pair-Share):** Learning is best facilitated when learners engage in meaningful conversations with others, rather than by listening passively. When teachers strategically partner students and provide relevant questions, learners have an opportunity to share their thinking, to hear what others have to say about the topic. During a large group meeting, teachers can ask students to turn to a partner and talk about the topic under discussion. Then, a few partners are asked to share with the whole group.

**Papers:** An unofficial way of saying whether someone has legal status by way of referring to their immigration papers, or lack of them.

**Policy:** An official or prescribed plan or course of action set by a government or entity. Only federal policies can dictate immigration status, but state and local policies can also affect students and their families in positive and negative ways. Policies can be enforced on federal, state, and local levels.

**Private College or University:** College funded primarily by their endowment and/or student tuition. Private institutions create their own policies regarding undocumented students.

**Public College or University:** College funded primarily by the government, generally through state taxes. In New York these are the CUNY and SUNY systems. Public institutions must follow state policies regarding accepting undocumented students and the type of tuition they must pay.

**Plyler v. Doe:** A 1982 Supreme Court ruling that established that all school-age K-12 students be afforded protections by the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, regardless of immigration status. Undocumented students cannot be denied enrollment in public schools. Schools cannot ask about immigration status or social security numbers of their students and families.

**Reflective Writing:** Used to analyze and examine a situation, a memory, or an experience. The writer reflects on the meanings and impacts the experiences might have had then or in the present moment.

**Refugee:** An individual who seeks to leave their country of origin and is unwilling or unable to return to it because of persecution or fear of persecution due to race, religion, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. A person who requests refugee status is still overseas until the country of placement is determined. Refugees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the US.

**Restorative Justice:** An approach to dealing with conflicts in school and other contexts where the focus is on mediation and agreement rather than hyper-punishment and negative consequences.

**Sanctuary State:** A state in which the local government and police withhold information from ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and do not cooperate with other immigration enforcement agencies in deporting undocumented people. Currently, no formal sanctuary exists because all states still share information with ICE as legislative action is required to fully halt this process. A sanctuary designation is often a symbolic gesture in support of undocumented immigrants.

**Student with Interrupted or Limited Formal Education (SIFE/SLIFE):** New York State's CR Part 154 defines SIFE as a newly arrived immigrant student who is two or more years below grade level in math or literacy in their home language because of inconsistent or interrupted schooling.

**Socioemotional Needs:** A school and classroom that feels safe, pays careful attention to the students' well-being so that they can thrive by creating spaces where everyone feels respected and is respectful of others. There is a recognition that many students have suffered trauma and need educators who know how to support students and get them support services as well.

**Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS):** Minors (21 and under) in the United States who have been abused, abandoned or neglected by one or both parents, may be eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile classification. If this classification is granted, the minor may qualify for lawful permanent residency, also known as getting a Green Card.

**Special Immigrant Visa:** A status granted overseas to certain Iraqis and Afghans by the US Department of State for their service to the US government in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**State Financial Aid:** Student tuition aid for higher education provided by state governments; can include grants and loans.

**Stakeholder:** People, groups, organizations or businesses that have a vested interest and/or concern in the community. Stakeholders can affect or be affected by the community's actions, objectives, and policies.

**Support Services:** Assistance provided by schools or outside organizations that supplement the academic services of a school. These can include mental health, legal counsel, food services, enrichment activities, and other supports outside the primary role of schools.

**Temporary Protected Status (TPS):** A temporary status given to eligible nationals of designated countries who are present in the United States, when their country has been affected by armed conflict or a natural disaster. Persons from designated countries are allowed to live and work in the United States for limited times. Currently, the following 10 countries have TPS: Haiti, El Salvador, Syria, Nepal, Honduras, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, Nicaragua and South Sudan have temporary protected status.

**Timeline Activity:** A kinesthetic learning activity that can be done across all grade levels, age levels and higher education levels. It usually consists of activities that require reading, writing, synthesis, analysis, sorting, categorizing, which helps frame a more robust understanding of historical or current events.

**Title III:** A sub-part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), now reauthorized as the All Students Succeed Act of 2015 (ESSA), which provides regulations and funding for students identified as requiring support services to learn English, some of whom are immigrants. The funding flows to school districts through the State Education Agency.

**Translanguaging:** Translanguaging centers the communication practices of bilingual or multilingual individuals, rather than viewing them from a monolingual lens. When bilinguals translanguage, they use their full linguistic repertoire without regard for who/what/when/where society tells them they can speak a named language such as Garifuna or Cantonese.

**Tuition Assistance Program (TAP):** A New York State financial aid program that provides undergraduate students tuition funding for colleges in the state that they do not need to pay back. In 2019 TAP became an option for undocumented students through the New York State Dream Act.

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** A United Nations agency with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

**Unaccompanied Minor:** Children under 18 years old who enter the United States with no lawful immigration status and no parent or legal guardian in the United States available to care for and take physical custody of them. Unaccompanied minors may apply for asylum in the US on their own.

**Undocumented/Unauthorized Immigrant:** A foreign-born person who does not have a legal right to be or remain in the United States. One can be undocumented either by entering the country without US government permission or by overstaying a visa that has expired.

**US Citizen:** A person may become a Citizen of the United States in several ways; (1) birth in the US or certain territories of the US subject to its jurisdiction, (2) Acquire citizenship at birth OR derive citizenship after birth through one or both US citizens parents, and (3) through the naturalization process.

**Wall Talk (Gallery Experience/Carousel):** An “out-of-your-seat” interactive activity to engage a group in a “silent” conversation on a topic, question, or theme. When you participate in Wall Talk, you travel to different spots in a room, to read and respond on big paper to short chunks of text. The “silence” of the activity demands that the participants use writing to express their opinions, reactions, or interpretations at the same time that it encourages those who might not usually respond orally to share their thoughts in writing along with everyone else.

**Work Permit:** In New York State minors between 14-17 years of age must apply for permission to work at their school or district office before beginning a new job. A social security number is required for a work permit, also referred to as working papers.

**Xenophobia:** The fear, hatred, and discrimination against people who come from other places or countries, or are perceived to be foreigners or outsiders.