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AUTHOR Villegas, Jose J.; Fischer, Shelley M.
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ABSTRACT

This program, in its fifth year of operation, was federally funded under the Refugee Act on a per-capita formula based on the number of New York City students identified as refugees using federal criteria. Because the total sum allocated was too limited to support instruction, funds were used to develop a vocational English as a second language curriculum guide, and to purchase books, instructional supplies, and computer software. These appeared to be appropriate for the students served. School personnel identified 171 students located in 19 public and non-public schools to participate in the program. Demographic data provided for 150 students revealed that most were from Asian countries and spoke Asian languages. Given the difficulty of attributing an effect to these resources, student outcomes were not proposed. Therefore, data were not generated. Two tables of statistical data on the number of program students by site, and the number and percent of program students by country and birth are included. (FMW)

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THE TRANSITION PROGRAM
FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

1986-1987

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O.E.A. Evaluation Section Report

Robert Tobias, Administrator of Evaluation
Judith S. Torres, Senior Manager

Grant Number: 5001-56-64260

THE TRANSITION PROGRAM

FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

1986-1987

Contact Person:

Eli Plotkin, Program Manager
H.S. Bilingual/E.S.L. Programs
Division of High Schools

Prepared by the
O.E.A. Bilingual Education
Evaluation Unit

Jose J. Villegas,
Evaluation Manager

Shelley M. Fischer,
Evaluation/Planning Specialist

New York City Public Schools
Office of Educational Assessment
Richard Guttenberg, Director

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A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

This program, in its fifth year of operation, was federally funded under the Refugee Act on a per-capita formula based on the number of New York City students identified as refugees using federal criteria. Because the total sum allocated was too limited to support instruction, funds were used to develop curriculum, and purchase books, instructional supplies, and computer software.

School personnel identified 171 students located in 19 public and non-public schools to participate in the program. Demographic data provided for 150 students revealed that most were from Asian countries and spoke Asian languages.

Given the difficulty of attributing an effect to these resources, student outcomes were not proposed. Therefore, data were not generated.

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THE TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR
REFUGEE CHILDREN

Year of Operation: 1986-87, Fifth Year of Funding
Central Administration: High School Funded Programs
1171 65th Street, Room 502
Brooklyn, New York 11219
Number of Participants: 171 students in grades nine
to twelve
Participating Sites: 19 high schools in New York
City (13 public, six private)
Contact Person: Eli Plotkin, Program Manager

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In 1986-87, the Transition Program for Refugee Children (T.P.R.C.) was in its fifth year of operation. Federal funding under the Refugee Act, which totaled \$67,795, was provided on a per-capita formula based on the number of New York City students identified as refugees under federal criteria. The program proposed to develop a vocational English as a second language curriculum and a curriculum which stresses assimilation of career education concepts.

The program spent one-third of the funds to develop a curriculum guide entitled "Hands Across The Curriculums: The LEP Student In Vocational Education." The other two-thirds of the funds were used to buy computer software, books, and materials which were needed at the participating sites. For example, participating non-public high schools received English and reading textbooks and instructional supplies such as paper, chalk, and erasers. The public high schools not only received

textbooks and instructional supplies, but were also given audio-visual materials and computer software programs that included lessons in chemistry, genetics, and astronomy.

Three schools (Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Eastern District) had the largest populations of refugee students. Their combined total of 110 represents 64 percent of the total number of students reported. The distribution of program students by site appears in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Number of Program Students by Site*

School	Number of Students
Seward Park	5
Lower East Side Prep	4
South Shore	1
Eastern District	11
T. Roosevelt	34
Midwood	4
Richmond Hill	3
Benjamin Cardozo	3
Franklin D. Roosevelt	15
Jamaica	3
Susan Wagner	2
Long Island City	6
John Bowne	9
Non-Public Schools	21
TOTAL	171

*Data were provided for students at 13 public schools and six non-public schools.

Most students were of Asian background, some born in Vietnam and others in Cambodia. The remaining students were from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Russia, Poland, Romania, Iran, and Afghanistan. The number and percent of students by country of birth appear in Table 2.

TABLE 2
Number and Percent of Program Students
by Country of Birth

Country of Birth	Number	Percent
Vietnam	57	38
Cambodia	51	34
Nicaragua	16	11
El Salvador	11	7
Afghanistan	5	3
Iran	4	3
Poland	3	2
U.S.S.R.	2	1
Romania	1	1
TOTAL	150*	100

*Data were missing for 21 students.

II. CONCLUSIONS

Since funding for the 1986-87 academic year was minimal, monies were used to develop a curriculum guide and to purchase books, instructional supplies, and computer software. These appeared to be appropriate for the students served.