



Dually Identified: How to Support Immigrant Students with Disabilities



Esther Karinge
Paraprofessional in Medford Public Schools (MA)

Topics of discussion

- 01 Societal Issues
- 02 Educators/administration
 - Ex. IEP Meetings
- 03 Services for families

Societal Issues

- Discrimination
 - Recognize that the child didn't ask to be an immigrant/refugee/a child of one
- Misinformation/Ignorance
 - Contrary to popular belief, lack of status = lack of proper resources
- Every disability is different, even if people have the same diagnoses

Educators/Administration

- Avoid stereotyping (ethnically or disabilities)
- Educate oneself against stereotypes
- Educate parents/caregivers against cultural stigma
- Compile resources for parents/caregivers to be able to work with

Educators/Administration (cont'd.)

- Keep in mind that caregivers/parents may be going through other problems
- Recognize that family issues may be causing stress on the child
- Understand that family bonds are often stronger than in American culture, so it's important to recognize siblings/cousins

Example: IEP Meeting ideas

- Translate the document into their language
- Have a translator present to dialogue well
- Frequent follow-ups
- Printed list of resources

Services often available to families

- Physical/Occupational Therapy for child (sometimes at/provided by school)
- Support classes for learning differences
- Community/fellow nationals

Questions/Comments?



Thank you!