

One of the main goals of the Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG) is to increase parents' understanding of the educational system, increase the involvement in their children's education, and foster positive attitudes toward school. One of the avenues to achieve that goal is to improve communication between refugee parents and the Anchorage School of District (ASD).

RSIG staff has developed Refugee Parents Involvement Survey (RPIS) in order to measure how much the parents understand and feel connected to the ASD. The survey consists of 11 questions which range from interpreter usage to the process of enrollment. The questions are rated on an ordinal scale from 1-3 with 1 being dissatisfied and uninvolved with the school system to 3 being satisfied and involved. In addition, two "YES NO" questions indicated whether parents knew basic information about their student's education. These surveys are given to refugee parents when they arrived and again in 6-8 months period. The expectation is that over the 6 months of their children being in school, parents will demonstrate increased knowledge and understanding of how the school system works and feel connected to the school system. These surveys are provided in the client's native languages or with an interpreter. RSIG case managers are present during the survey and all questions are explained to the parents if they did not understand them.

Question #	First semester of 2011	Second semester of 2011	First semester of 2012	Second Semester of 2012	First semester of 2013
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Here are the salient findings from these surveys:

According to data from this survey, most of the parents stated that the telephonic messages they are receiving from their children schools are still only in English. They do not understand them and have to ask for a help from their children or somebody else who can speak at least some minimum English. Of course, that information can be interpreted incorrectly/ inaccurately.

There was an increase in Parent Teacher Conference involvement. The parents are more aware of when and how to