

IMMIGRATION TERMS

Asylee: a noncitizen in the United States or at a port of entry who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution (persecution or the fear of persecution may be based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion)

Bilingual education: schooling in which those not fluent in English are taught subjects in their own language

Circular migration: the circumstance in which immigrants to the United States travel back and forth between the United States and their countries or origin

Diversity: variation; used in reference to the growing cultural, ethnic, and linguistic variation of the U.S. population

First-generation immigrant: an immigrant to the United States who has not been preceded by his or her parents or other family members

Humanitarian admission: the process by which immigrants are admitted to the United States for humanitarian reasons, such as suffering human rights abuses in the country of origin; usually involves asylees and refugees

Illegal immigrant: an immigrant who enters the United States illegally (that is, without an invitation) or without inspection, or who enters legally (as a visitor, student, or temporary employee) but then fails to leave when his or her visa expires (see visa overstayer); also called undocumented immigrant

Immigrant children, children of immigrants: individuals from birth to age 18 who come to the United States with their parents or other family members, and U.S.-born children of parents who emigrated to the United States before those children were born

Legal immigrant: an immigrant who enters the United States as a legal permanent resident and who, after five years of continuous residence, is eligible to apply for citizenship

LEP: limited English proficiency, used to describe the linguistic ability of students who have difficulty reading, writing, speaking, and/or understanding English

Mixed-status families: families comprised of at least one member (typically the child) who is a U.S. citizen and at least one member (typically the parent, but sometimes also a sibling) who is unauthorized

Refugee: any person outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution (persecution or the fear of persecution may be based on the person's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion); refugees are exempt from numerical limitation and eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States

Second-generation immigrant: the U.S.-born child of a first-generation immigrant; as a U.S. citizen, eligible to receive certain benefits on the same basis as citizens

Selective migration: the circumstance in which immigrants who choose to come to the United States are not representative of the full spectrum of citizens in their country of origin due to factors influencing their decision to migrate, such as higher (or lower) education levels

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ) - foreign children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected and is a dependent of the court. Children who are unable to be reunited with a parent can get a green card as a SIJ. Can live and work permanently in the US. Can never petition for a green card for parents.

Unaccompanied children (UAC): children who lack lawful immigration status in the United States, who are under the age of 18, and who either are without a parent or legal guardian in the United States or without a parent or legal guardian in the United States who is available to provide care and physical custody. Also referred as *unaccompanied minors*, *unaccompanied alien children*, *unaccompanied migrant children*, *juvenile immigrants*

Undocumented immigrant: see illegal immigrant

Visa overstayer: a noncitizen who enters the United States on a visa that allows him or her to stay for a limited period of time, then overstays that limit; considered an undocumented, or illegal immigrant