



(English Language)

What is SWIS?

SWIS stands for **Settlement Workers in Schools**. The SWIS program is a partnership of Local School Divisions, Service Provider Organizations, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

It is a school based outreach program designed to help newcomer students and their families settle in their school and community. The first few years in Canada are particularly difficult for newcomer students and their families. SWIS connects newly arrived families to services and resources in the school and community in order to promote settlement and foster student achievement.

Why locate settlement workers in schools?

Schools are one of the first services that newcomers connect with in the community. With the cooperation of the school, the SWIS worker will systematically contact newcomers and refer them to specific services.

How does the SWIS worker do this?

The SWIS worker seeks to:

- Support successful school integration by identifying barriers in the school system and providing education, information and guidance to students, parents, teachers, and school administrators
- Help students transition to life in Canada by providing, practical guidance, culturally sensitive counselling, and immediate intervention in crisis situations
- Increase communication effectiveness by providing linguistic and cultural interpretation to students, parents, teachers and other service providers
- Increase student and parent awareness about the total range of opportunities and services available to assist them in settlement by providing information and practical guidance throughout the school year either individually or in small group sessions
- Advocate on behalf of students and their families

- Promote respect for cultural diversity by informing and educating school personnel, parents, students and the community regarding refugee and Immigrant issues

Who is SWIS for?

The SWIS program focuses on newcomer families that are in the first few years in Canada and on newcomers that have unresolved first year settlement needs.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have questions about the SWIS program or want to learn more please contact one of these centers:

1. The Humboldt Regional Newcomer Centre - thehrnc.com
2. Moose Jaw Multicultural Council - mjmcinc.ca
3. Regina Open Door Society - rods.ca
4. Saskatoon Open Door Society - sods.sk.ca
5. Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre - newcomerwelcomecentre.com
6. YWCA (Prince Albert) - ywcaprincealbert.ca

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