



# Refugee and Immigrant Students' Successful School Integration

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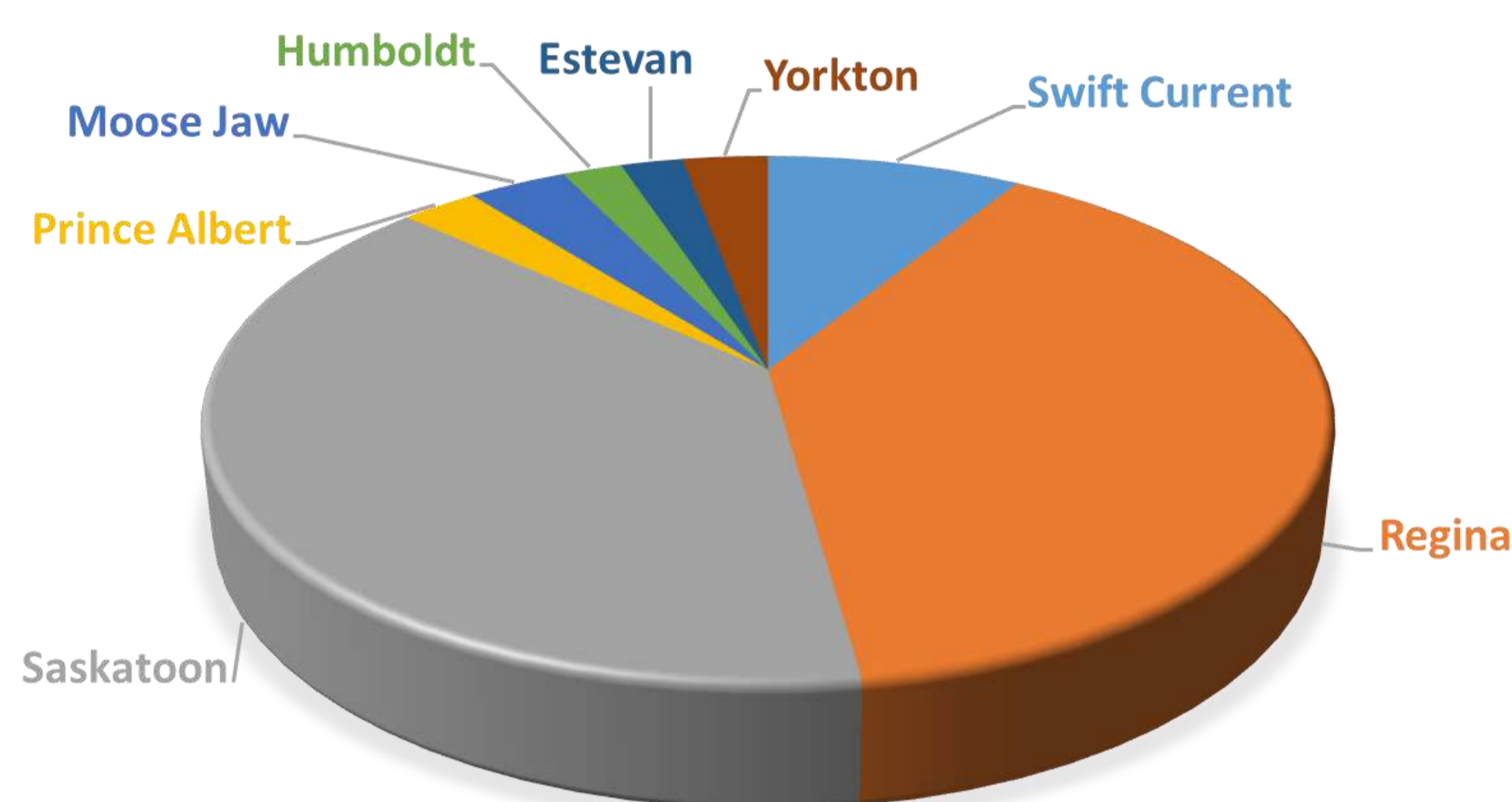
## SWIS IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Fact:** Among the nearly 22.5 million refugees around the world, over half are children under 18 years of age (UNHCR, 2017).

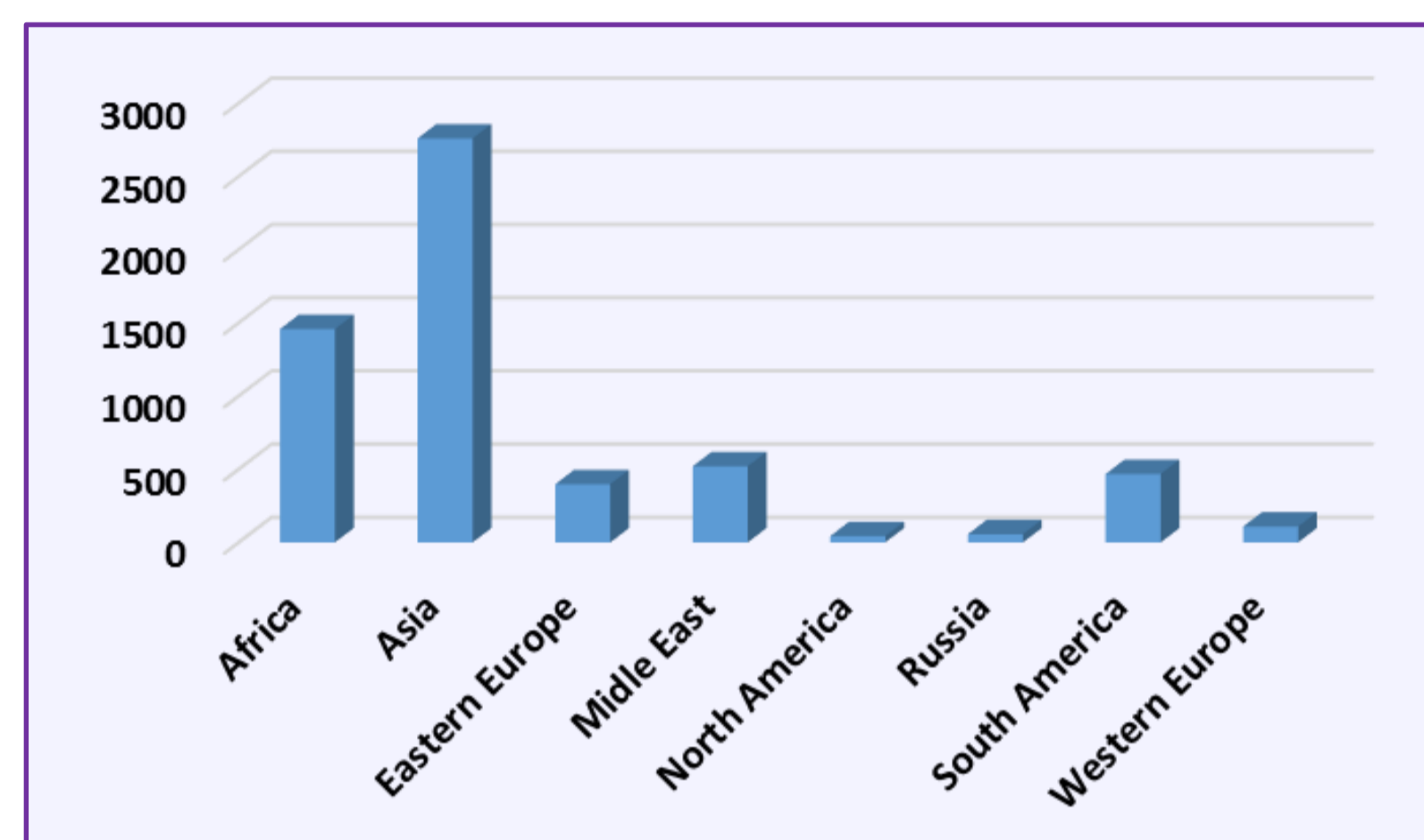
### SWIS Service Providers in Saskatchewan:

- ❖ Estevan
- ❖ Humboldt
- ❖ Moose Jaw
- ❖ Prince Albert
- ❖ Regina
- ❖ Saskatoon
- ❖ Swift Current
- ❖ Weyburn
- ❖ Yorkton

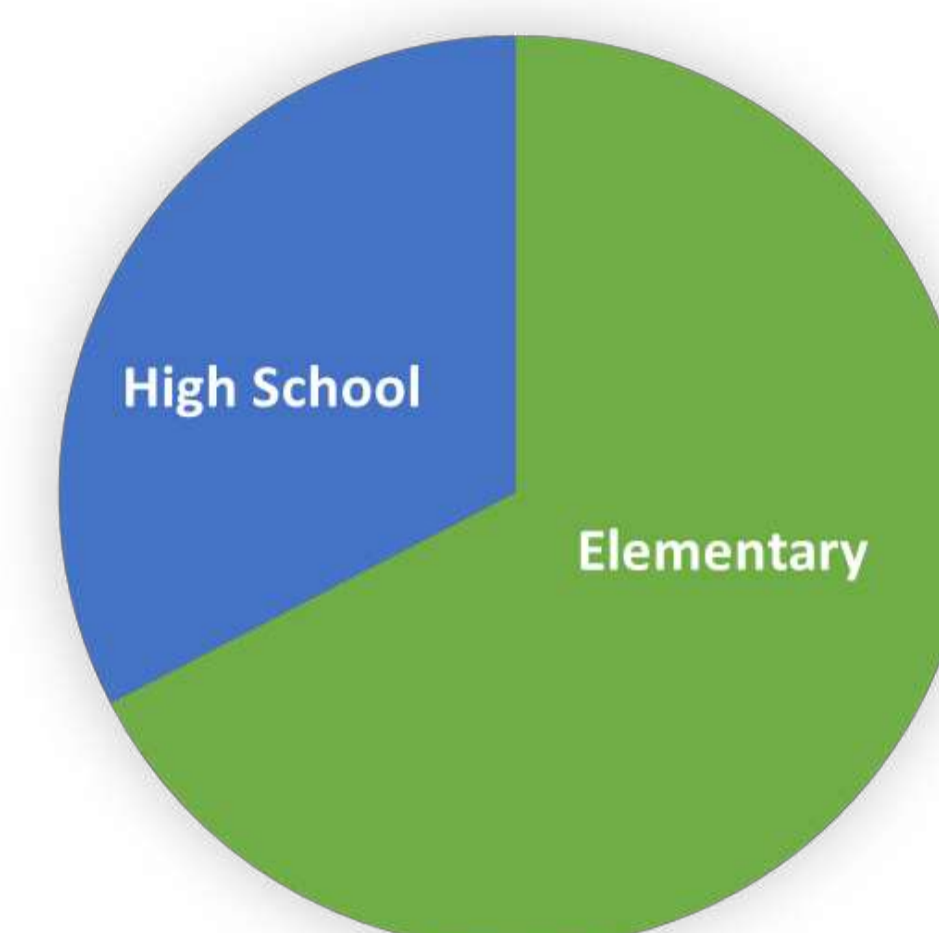
### Distribution of Students Across the Province



### Country of Origin



### Elementary and High school



## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Orientation Workshop for Newcomers (OWN)**  
A partnership between schools, SWIS, and peer leaders.
- ❖ **Peer Leader Training**  
Training of peer leaders is an integral part of the OWN program and a major project on its own.
- ❖ **Initiating and Supporting Home Work Help Clubs**  
SWIS Identifies and supports students with the needs for the home work and refer to the program.
- ❖ **Facilitating Family Nights in schools**  
SWIS organizes and facilitates information sessions and family nights in schools.



- ❖ **Culturally Sensitive Consultation and Mediation**  
SWIS supports students and their families through consultation and mediation based on cultural sensitivity.
- ❖ **Linguistic Translation/Interpretation**  
During the sessions and meetings, SWIS provides interpretation services when there is need.
- ❖ **Referrals and Follow up**  
SWIS refers students and their families for appropriate community services when there is a need.

Saskatchewan SWIS program also provides training, resources, webinar and in collaboration with regional organizations initiates relevant conferences aiming to advance the SWIS program. Of highlight is this year PNT Region Settlement Services In Schools and Communities Learning Event that was held in Regina.

## KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL INTEGRATION



- Safe, Welcoming, and Healthy School Environment
- Informed Settlement Workers In School
- Parents Involvement with their Children Educational Life
- Caring for Mental Health and Well-Being of Students



## BEST PRACTICES, LESSONS LEARNED

- ❖ School staff awareness of the needs of newcomer children and youth
- ❖ Engaging families and community providers as meaningful partners
- ❖ Fostering resiliency
- ❖ Focus on the family role in education
- ❖ Awareness of the factors that contribute to school drop out
- ❖ Increasing newcomer students' sense of belonging to the school
- ❖ Promoting justice and equity in school
- ❖ Providing sufficient resource to offer English as "An Additional Language"
- ❖ Promoting multiculturalism and preventing racism and discrimination
- ❖ Prevention of bullying
- ❖ Creating trauma-sensitive schools and preparing the educators to meet the needs of trauma-affected and vulnerable youth
- ❖ Retaining effective supports for students based on their individual contexts and unique personalities, life conditions, and academic functioning



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