



SWIS DURHAM

INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS

What is SWIS?

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Durham is a school-based program that provides information and referral services to assist newly-arrived families in many ways including:

- Assisting newcomers with accessing school and community resources
- Linking newcomers with social and cultural services
- Assisting newcomers as they integrate into their local schools

Who is your SWIS worker?

www.cdcd.org/swis

Did you know?

- SWIS Durham is a partnership of the Durham Catholic District School Board; Durham District School Board; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; and Community Development Council Durham.
- SWIS can assist all newcomer families regardless of ESL/ELD funding status.
- SWIS has served over 3,000 clients since its official launch in 2010.
- SWIS has a staff of seven school-based workers who provide service to over 180 schools across Durham Region.

How does SWIS work?

Each school is assigned a school settlement worker. With the cooperation of the school, settlement workers contact newcomer parents and youth to provide them with settlement/school information and refer them to other community services. Students under the age of 16 require parental consent to access SWIS. Though not a professional translator, the settlement worker in your school is part of a multilingual team and can help families access services in many languages.

How do I refer newcomers to SWIS?

The SWIS referral process is as easy as 1... 2... 3

- 1** Ask the family or youth to fill out a SWIS Consent Form (available at the school office or from your school settlement worker).
- 2** Return the Consent Form to your school settlement worker.
- 3** SWIS will contact the newcomer.

Support for your school:

REGISTRATION SUPPORT

- Available by appointment to support cultural and language needs during the registration process

STUDENT SUCCESS

- Supporting communication between school staff and newcomer families
- Assisting newcomer families with their understanding of the Ontario school system

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- Encouraging newcomer family involvement in school activities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS FOR SCHOOL STAFF

- Providing cultural interpretation and sensitivity training to enhance understanding