The process of acculturation for English Language Learners is complex and can be viewed from many perspectives. This Bulletin discusses some of these elements so that educators can have a better understanding of the broader cultural individual, group, and community-related constraints effecting academic achievement.

**Culture Group Identification** - What are the categories of language minorities in our schools?

**Refugees.** The largest group currently represented in schools, refugees are newcomers who have been forced to leave their country of origin and have been allowed to enter the U.S. for political reasons. Older refugees often have difficulty transitioning to U.S. culture because of reluctance to leave their country of origin.

**Immigrants.** Immigrants are willing newcomers to U.S. culture who were granted permission to come through a quota system with eligibility requirements. Often they quickly shed their home culture to assimilate into U.S. culture.