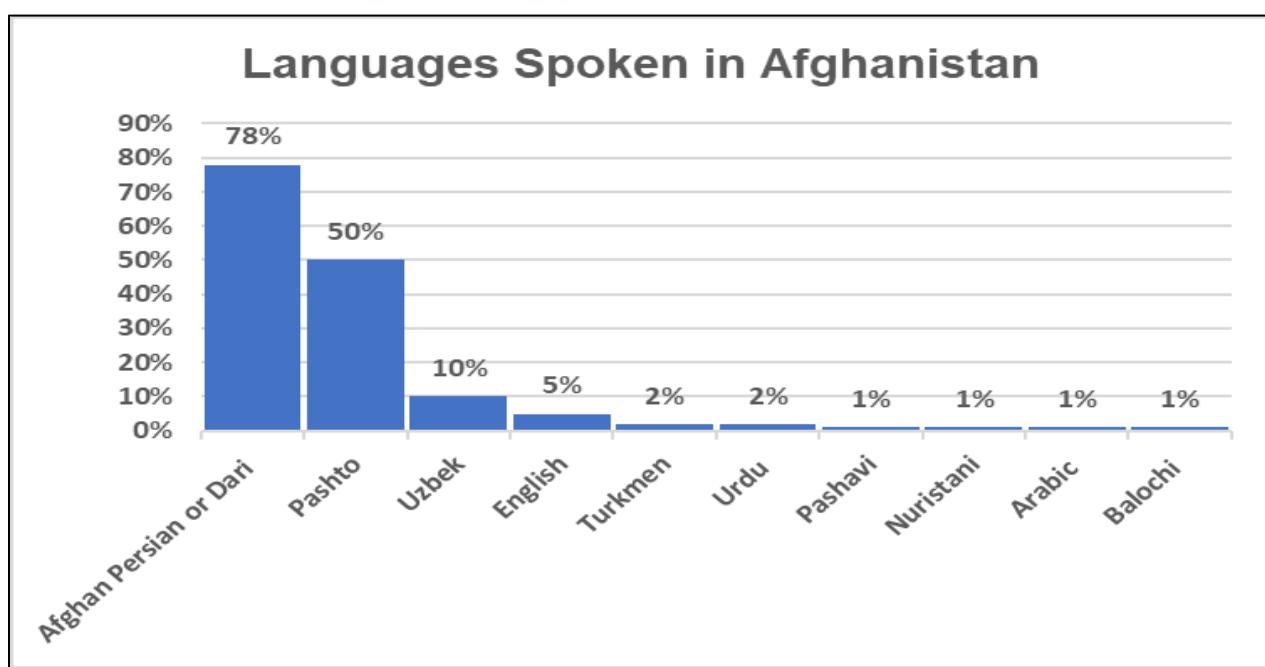
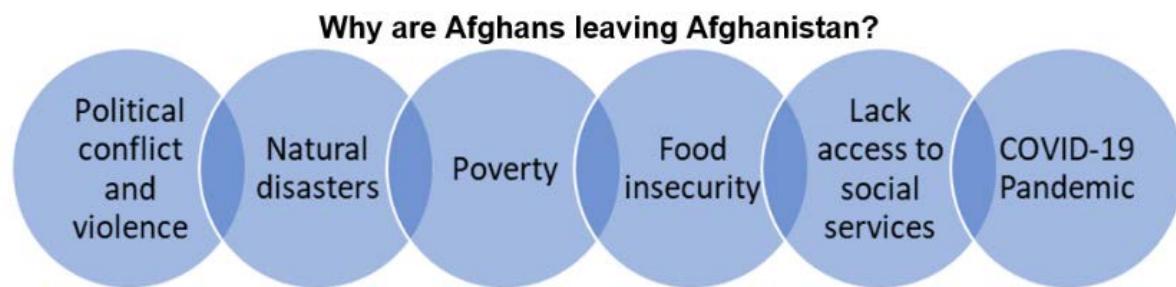
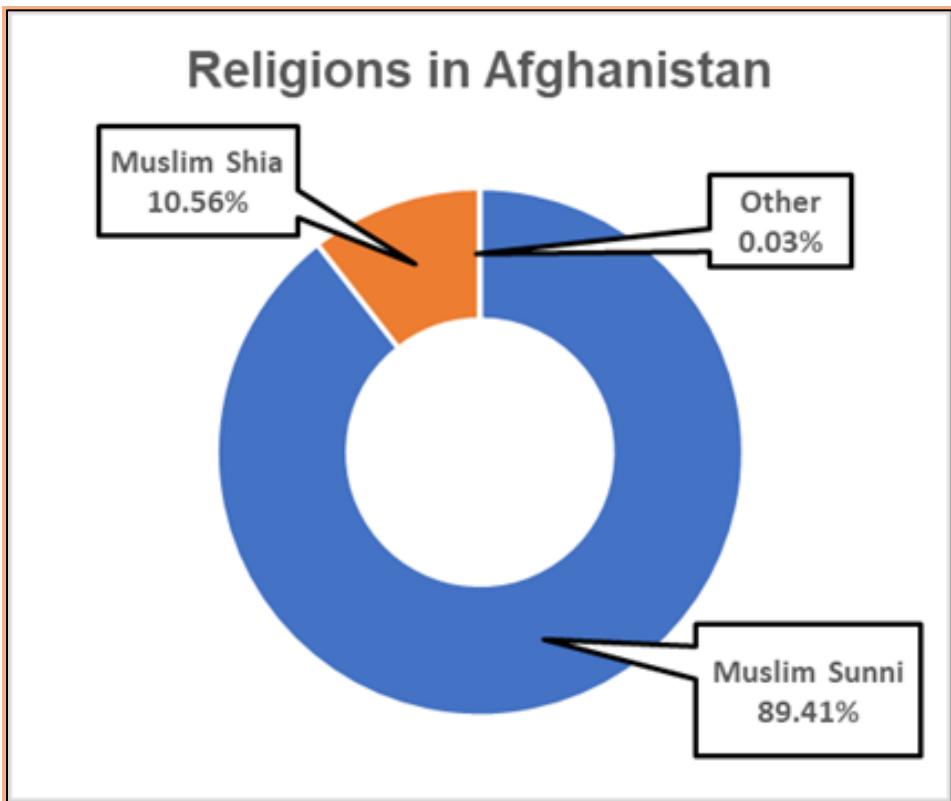


Afghan Newcomers

This two-page guide is to provide local educational agencies general information and resources to support Afghan newcomer students attending schools in California.





Things to Consider

A good first impression is important to establish a positive experience for newcomer students and families entering a new schooling environment. Below are some things to consider when interacting with Afghan newcomers. For more detailed information, reference the cultural resources listed in the table below.

Afghan versus Afghani – A person from Afghanistan is referred to as an Afghan not as an Afghani. Afghani is the currency used in Afghanistan.

Arabs and Middle Eastern – Afghanistan is geographically located in South Asia. Afghans are not considered Arab or Middle Eastern.

Greetings – Typical greeting between people of the same gender involves a handshake with the right hand. People of the opposite gender do not touch during greetings unless they are a close family member.

Eye Contacts – There may be a lack of direct eye contact between people of the opposite gender or between a younger person and an adult as a sign of respect. However, direct eye contact is common between people with the same age, gender, and status.

Name Pronunciation – A person's name is part of their identity. It is important to learn to correctly pronounce the name of the student and their family members. Ask the students directly on how to pronounce their name instead of assuming the pronunciation.

Resources for LEAs Serving Afghan Newcomer Students and Their Families

Topic	Links to Resources
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Newcomer Students - https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/newcomerstudnts.asp○ Refugee Programs Bureau - https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/refugees○ Afghan Arrival Response - https://cdss.ca.gov/afghan-arrival-response○ How Can Schools Help to Welcome Young Afghan Newcomers? - https://www.edsurge.com/news/2021-11-03-how-can-schools-help-to-welcome-young-afghan-newcomers○ How Schools Can Partner with Afghan Refugee Families - https://www.colorincolorado.org/refugees/afghan#overview○ Welcoming and Orienting Newcomer Students to U.S. Schools - https://brycs.org/schools/welcoming-and-orienting-newcomer-students-to-u-s-schools/
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sunni and Shia Islam - https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/medieval-times/islam-intro/v/sunni-and-shia-islam-part-1○ Beliefs and Daily Lives of Muslims - https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/muslims/beliefs.html○ Afghan Culture - https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/afghan-culture/○ Afghan Students - https://usahello.org/how-to-help/for-teachers/cultural-background-resources/afghan-students/#qref
Lesson Plans and Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Talking and Teaching about Afghan Refugees and the Fall of Kabul - https://reimaginingmigration.org/talking-and-teaching-about-afghan-refugees-and-the-fall-of-kabul/○ Welcoming Afghans as Americans—With Books - https://imyournighborbooks.org/welcoming-afghans/○ Refugee Stories from Iraq and Afghanistan - https://www.colorincolorado.org/booklist/refugee-stories-iraq-and-afghanistan○ Teaching about Refugees - https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/teaching-about-refugees.html○ Afghanistan - https://www.colorincolorado.org/country/afghanistan?page=1

References

- Central Intelligence Agency.2021. The World Factbook Afghanistan - <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/afghanistan/>
- Cultural Atlas. 2021. Afghan Culture - <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/afghan-culture/>.
- International Rescue Committee. 2021. Afghanistan - <https://www.rescue.org/country/afghanistan#what-caused-the-current-crisis-in-afghanistan>.
- Madhani, Aamer. "States learning how many Afghan evacuees coming their way." <https://apnews.com/article/us-afghanistan-evacuees-262203820a617808f4a40a130e2d179a> Associated Press, September 15, 2021. Accessed December 20, 2021.
- Thenoux, Fran oise. "Honor Your Students' Heritage by Pronouncing Their Names Correctly." <https://www.pbssocal.org/education/honor-students-heritage-pronouncing-names-correctly> Public Broadcasting Service SoCal. December 8, 2020.