

RIISING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER

POPULATION: BURMESE REFUGEES

May 2011

INTRODUCTION

Burmese was the



Resettlement and Location in Austin

Two resettlement agencies provide services to Burmese refugee families in the Austin area: Refugee Services of Texas, Inc. (RST), and Caritas Refugee/Resettlement. They help families secure housing and obtain services to help with resettlement. Many Burmese families are settled in proximity to one another. According to Texas Department of Health and Human Services records, 17% of refugees in Travis County in 2010 were from Burma.

Download:[http: www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/refugee_health/statistics/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/refugee_health/statistics/)

Top 12 Schools for Burmese Enrollment, Spring 2011

Grade level	Number	Percentage
Elementary	118	57
Linder	26	13
Metz	18	9
Sanchez	18	9
Harris	13	6
Reilly	12	6
Cook	9	4
Wooldridge	8	4
Middle	26	13
Martin	7	3
Fulmore	6	3
High	64	31
International	27	13
Travis	17	8
Lanier	12	6

Source. AISD School, Family, and Community Education records, 2011

Note. Only students enrolled in AISD as of April 5, 2011 are included.

Historical Background

Burma is a multi ethnic country that has experienced decades of civil unrest, armed conflict, and natural catastrophe, which has forced thousands of refugees to flee into neighboring countries, including Thailand and Malaysia (south of Burma).⁵

To relieve crowded Karen refugee camps along the Thai Burmese border, the

