Through thoughtful training and coaching by the Bridges team I have gained the conceptual knowledge and pedagogy necessary to meet the needs of my SIFE students. Just this year I was overjoyed to see 5 of my former SIFE students graduate from high school. Last year 7 of my former SIFE students passed their English Regents in summer. These successes would have not been possible without the Bridges Project.

-Bridges partner teacher, NYC high school

SIFE are a subset of Newcomer students who have had interrupted schooling in their home countries due to war, gang violence, poverty and other factors.

Teachers and administrators who receive ongoing training and coaching on Bridges’ innovative curricula to accelerate progress among SIFE.

Urban and rural communities in every region of New York State participate in our programs.

In just 1 year, 95% of Bridges students achieve at least 1 level of reading growth.

By the end of the school year 95% of Bridges students report having more confidence in setting goals and asking for help.

BRIDGES HAS IMPACTED

10K SIFE Students with Interrupted Formal Education

1,000 EDUCATORS

10 REGIONS

WHY IT’S IMPORTANT

HIGH DROP OUT RISK

FASTEST GROWING POPULATION

UNIQUE CHALLENGES

WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

95% OF STUDENTS SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN

READING

CONFIDENCE

Nearly 25% of students in NYS public schools will be English Language Learners by 2025.*

SIFE are likely to have experienced traumatic events and often struggle to support their families.

Newcomers have the highest school drop-out rate in the U.S at 38%.*

*NYSED Multilingual Learner Graduation Rate Improvement and Dropout Prevention Toolkit

*NEA Policy Brief

*NYSID Multilingual Learner Graduation Rate Improvement and Dropout Prevention Toolkit

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bridgetheproject.com
In my quest to serve the Newcomer population of our school I searched high and low for a program that would best serve the education, assimilation and integration of this group into the fold of our school community...Bridges gave us a new perspective and the tools desperately needed by these students, particularly in language acquisition...Soon after the Bridges Program started in our school, we were able to see the difference in our students’ demeanor; they seemed happier, they were able to do schoolwork that was not confusing or too foreign to even try. They began to see that school was fun and learning was not all that difficult, their self-confidence grew, and their absenteeism diminished. The Bridges Program in effect gave our SIFE a new sense of pride where in past years timidity reigned.

-Assistant Principal, Hudson Valley region high school
Accelerating language, academic, and social-emotional learning for multilingual students.

We Serve

- **Newcomer Learners**: Immigrant students who arrived in the U.S. within the past 3 years and are new to English.

- **SIFE**: Students with Interrupted and/or Inconsistent Formal Education in their home country, whose literacy or math skills are at two years below grade level.

- **SIFE with Developing Literacy**: SIFE learners who are new to print or have a reading level below the third grade in their home language.

Our Philosophy

Our work is grounded in the belief that Newcomers and SIFE bring valuable resources, such as life experiences, home language, and cultural knowledge that enrich our schools and communities.

We believe that when educators are trained to understand the characteristics of Newcomers and SIFE and implement instructional and social-emotional strategies that accelerate learning, students are able to graduate and experience improved college and career readiness.

Our Programs

- Coach school and district leaders
- Lead teacher learning
- Develop innovative instructional resources

A project of the Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society (RISLUS) and the Center for Advanced Study in Education (CASE)

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