

**Website**

irisct.org

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Job Announcement**New Britain Summer Learning Program Lead Teacher (for various grade levels, K-8)**
(These are part-time, short-term positions)

IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, Inc. www.irisct.org) is a dynamic immigrant services agency in New Haven. IRIS serves people from all over the world who are starting new lives in Connecticut and are on the path to becoming self-sufficient, contributing members of their new communities. IRIS mission is to welcome refugees and other immigrants, helps them rebuild their lives, pursue their dreams, and contribute to the vitality of their communities. We envision a society where all immigrants are valued, respected, and able to thrive.

IRIS is seeking experienced teachers for our 2026 Summer Learning Program (SLP) for school-aged refugee and immigrant students who are currently navigating the U.S. education system. While many of our students have now attended school in the U.S., they continue to benefit from targeted support as English Language Learners (ELL) and Multilingual Learners (MLL). Our program focuses on bridging the academic gap between school years, deepening content knowledge, and fostering the literacy skills necessary for long-term success in their local school districts.

Program dates: June 29-July 31. The program meets weekdays from 8:30am to 2:00 pm, with an extended day (until 3:00 pm) on Thursdays. Lead teachers will also be paid for some orientation and course planning during May and June.

General Description

SLP teachers will lead daily classes of about 10 to 20 refugee and immigrant students and assist with the coordination of daily programming for the IRIS Summer Learning Program as part of a larger team. The program serves 40 to 60 students between the ages of 5 and 14. The students will be divided into separate age and academic level groups which will each be led by an SLP teacher and an assistant teacher, with additional help from volunteers and interns.

The IRIS SLP aims to strengthen students' English skills (speaking & listening; reading & writing), deepen background knowledge, and support continued academic success; help students feel deeply connected to and empowered within their local communities; promote cross-cultural understanding through positive experiences collaborating with people from different ethnic and racial backgrounds; and foster a sense of belonging and well-being. Teachers will be responsible for creating a positive learning environment and assessing and meeting the daily needs of students. Teachers will act as representatives of the Summer Learning Program and of IRIS and will contribute to organizing visitors and welcoming them to the program.

SLP Teachers must have a commitment to anti-racism. With training and support, teachers will

be expected to incorporate classroom activities that help students recognize and appreciate their own and their classmates' diverse identities and help students gain the cultural competencies

needed to navigate a multicultural society. Teachers must be comfortable anticipating and responding to incidents of discrimination with appropriate mediation and education.

Specific Duties

- Lead a class of 10 to 20 K-8 students of similar ages and levels.
- Working in collaboration with the SLP faculty and using both existing curriculum and resources you bring to the table, design and implement an engaging five-week course that includes an age-appropriate long-term project.
- Actively collaborate with the SLP Head Teacher before the start of the program to internalize and help refine the established curriculum, ensuring a clear understanding of the instructional goals and strategies before the program starts.
- Modify curriculum as needed, based on review, feedback, and input from various sources and in collaboration with the SLP leadership team.
- Maintain a language-rich environment for students who are all, or almost all, English Language Learners who speak a variety of home languages including Pashto, Dari, Ukrainian, Kiswahili, and Spanish.
- Re-evaluate curriculum and specific lesson plans on a daily and ongoing basis to better meet the needs of students.
- In conjunction with curriculum and lesson planning, create a list of necessary learning and program supplies.
- In collaboration with the SLP team, assist in acquiring learning and program supplies—either through purchase or donation.
- Contribute to the organization and supervision of a daily team of volunteers and other program staff to best meet the needs of the students and utilize the strengths of the volunteers and program staff.
- Join brief team meetings at the start of each day to review lesson plans and daily projects, and at the end of each day to review and plan for the next day.
- Using the curriculum and lesson plans, improvising when necessary, and working closely with volunteers and program staff, leads students in daily lessons and activities.
- Create the best possible learning environment for the students in the classroom by addressing challenges early and working closely and communicating well with team members
- In close cooperation with volunteers and program staff, meet the daily needs of students – including providing academic and social support for each student as an individual, contacting the SLP team with concerns unable to be addressed inside the classroom, and communicating on a daily basis with parents to share successes and troubleshoot any challenges.
- Assist in the planning and supervision of regular indoor/outdoor recreational activities both on and off site to promote exercise and healthy living habits.
- Working closely with volunteers and program staff, supervising students during recess and on field trips to ensure a safe and positive experience for all participants.

Supervised by: Associate Director of Education

Priority will be given to applicants with the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree and relevant work experience
- Experience with refugees, asylees, immigrants, and undocumented or mixed status families
- Experience with underserved communities and/or communities of color
- A commitment to anti-racism, cultural sensitivity, and the mission of IRIS
- Experience in counseling, working with children, youth, and families; experience facilitating groups
- Experience working with English Language Learners
- Experience in curriculum and program design and project-based learning
- Experience working in educational settings
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Familiarity with New Britain/Hartford
- Strong presentation, communication, and people skills
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Proficiency in another language preferred but not required (especially Pashto, Dari, Farsi, Urdu, Swahili, Spanish, Arabic, or Haitian Creole)

Compensation: \$30.90 per hour, approximately 30 hours per week during the 5-week instructional period (June 29 – July 31). Compensation includes additional hours for faculty orientation (week of June 22-26) and curriculum prep prior to the program's start.

This is a part-time short-term position and does not include benefits.

IRIS is an affirmative action-equal opportunity employer.

To apply, send an email to our HR Director at humanresources@irisct.org as soon as possible with the following:

- A subject line that says “NEW BRITAIN SLP LEAD TEACHER—YOUR NAME”
- A cover letter explaining your interest and qualifications that includes which age group(s) you would be most comfortable teaching
- An attached resume with three professional references

Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received and until the positions are filled.