

Name: _____

Using the Past Schooling and Background Information Form

Teachers can gather information on pages 1-2 from orientation paperwork or with the help of a translator, depending on the student’s language proficiency. Teachers should not ask students for the information on page 3.

1. **Where were you born?** _____
city or town country

2. **How old were you when you came to the US?** _____

3. **What was the first language you spoke as a child?** _____

3a. Do you still speak this language? yes no

4. **Did you attend school in (native country)?** yes no

4a. If yes, how many years? _____

4b. If yes, In what language were you taught? _____

5. **What is the highest school grade you completed?** _____

6. **Did you attend any other schools (in native country or another)?** yes no

7. **Can you read (native language)?** yes no

8. **Can you write (native language)?** yes no

9. **Can you read and write English?** yes no a little

9a. How old were you when you learned to read and write English? _____

9b. Where did you learn to read and write English? (home, school)? _____

10. **How many schools did you attend as a child?** _____

11. **Did you ever repeat a grade?** yes no

11a. If yes, which grade(s)? _____

Past Schooling and Background Information for Non-Native Speakers of English

Additional background information

To be completed by teacher

[On Speaking & Cultural Terms](#), Sections III & IV is a resource for this information.

1. **Is the student an immigrant or refugee?** yes no

If refugee, what do you know about the student's life/experiences prior to resettlement?

2. **How can the student's native language can be characterized?**

Roman alphabet (French, German, Spanish)

Non-Roman alphabet (Arabic, Korean, Russian, Thai)

Non-alphabet (Chinese)

Pre-literate – no written form or in the process of developing a written form

(American indigenous, African, Australian and Pacific languages)

3. **What are the differences and similarities in appearance between the student's native language and English?** (Similar alphabet, written on/above/below the line, written left-to-right or right-to-left, includes letters or symbols, etc.)

4. **What are the differences in syntax and grammar of the student's native language?**

5. **What are the difficult sounds in English for the student's native language?**

6. **What is unique about the student's culture?** (gestures, education, family, personal space/courtesies, etc.)