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Burmese parents' experiences and communication with teachers

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Burmese community is a new addition to Fort Wayne's ever diverse population. Fort Wayne is estimated to host ... Burmese refugees that settled after year..., 10 years after the first Coup d'état in Burma (Myanmar, in military definition). Since the population carries unique characteristics, the children as well as their refugee parents experience American educational practices for the first time in their lives. Early schooling experiences for Burmese children and their parents often consist of elementary schools in Burma and la the informal schooling by the refugee camp workers and volunteers in Thailand.

This study is a part of larger study that explores educational experiences of Burmese parents with schooling in Fort Wayne. In this presentation, I will focus on the parents' communication and experiences with classroom teachers. 10 parents were interviewed and issues that come up as patterns in the communication between classroom teachers and Burmese parents were identified. The results indicate that

1. Out of 10 parents interviewed, none of the parents had a teacher visiting their homes.
2. All of the parents expressed a great desire to help teachers get to know themselves, their family and their culture.
3. The biggest obstacles for stronger communication....