

SF Chronicle JUN 13 1975

# U.S. Grants to School Refugees

Washington

The federal government will make one-time-only grants this fall to help educate Vietnamese and Cambodian refugee children, Health Education and Welfare Secretary Caspar Weinberger announced yesterday.

The amounts of grants to school districts with high concentrations of refugees will be based on the number of refugee students above a certain minimum enrollment and they will total

\$200-\$300 per student, Weinberger said.

California Superintendent of Public Instruction Wilson Riles, who has complained that the federal government isn't doing enough to help educate the refugees, called Weinberger's plan "grossly inadequate."

"Apparently he (Weinberger) is bending a little," said Riles, "but so far as I'm concerned, he has not bent nearly enough."

To be eligible to apply for a grant, a district must have

more than 100 refugee students enrolled or a number of refugees exceeding one per cent of its total enrollment, whichever is less, Weinberger said.

The amount of a grant to a district for each refugee student will vary from \$200-\$300, with the exact figure to be determined by a formula that will take into account the cost of instruction in the state where the districts.

Thus, a district with 101 refugee students could get a grant of \$200-\$300; if the

same district had an enrollment of 300 refugees, its grant would be from \$40,000-\$60,000.

Riles noted that the average annual cost of educating a child in California is \$1400 and said he thought the federal government should reimburse the state "for the total cost of educating these children."

"To talk about \$200-\$300 is irresponsible," Riles said. "I am going to pursue an allocation to take up the total cost."

Riles told the State Board of Education in Sacramento that he is asking the federal government for \$187 million to educate the refugees, a figure that would include money for bilingual and vocational training for adults.

The figure, Riles said, would cover costs for the next five years, with the government paying the entire cost the first year, 80 per cent the second year and so on down to none at the end of the five-year period.

*Our Correspondent*

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