

Minnesota Transitions Charter Schools
ESL Program Description & Parent Notification

2016-2017

Mission & Goals

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Minnesota Law and the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) require that we identify whether the students in our school district are English Learners (ELs). Both of these laws require a language instruction educational program for ELs with limited English proficiency (LEP). In addition, NCLB requires that we provide you with information regarding your child's identification process and instructional services. The identification process and placement of your child in a language instruction educational program is based on a combination of home language questionnaire, teacher judgment, English test results and other measures. Your child's English proficiency test scores are shown below.

The English Learner Education (EL) Program in the Minnesota Transitions Charter School District is designed for students who are in the process of English language acquisition. As long as students are classified as having limited English proficiency (LEP), the district seeks to ensure the development of a student's academic language by employing a variety of program models. We provide either pull-out instruction, push-in instruction or a combination of the two for students who are identified as Level One through Level Four. We also train all of our highly-qualified teachers in sheltered instructional strategies in order to help students succeed in all academic subjects while becoming proficient in the English language. In addition, all of affected teachers in the district receive specific professional development in the area of teaching English Learners (ELs). All mainstream teachers are trained in an explicit focus on academic language and are responsible for teaching the academic language of their content area, and for developing differentiated lessons to meet student needs.

Your child has been identified as having LEP. Your child will be placed in the English Language Learner program. We believe that this program will help meet your child's educational needs and enhance his or her academic success in school. We invite you to visit the school and meet with our staff to learn more about the benefit of the program and other services available at the school.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Grade Level:

2016 WAPT Test Score:
/ no

Placed in Newcomer Academy: yes

Your student's ELL Level:

(See back page for description of program)

Level 1 – Entering

Students who are level one English Learners (ELs) are just entering English. Students at this level receive 2 hours of direct ELL instruction per day, which may include small group pull out instruction, and/or support from a qualified EL teacher in the mainstream classroom providing support through a push-in service model.

Level 2 - Beginning

Students who are level two English Learners (ELs) are just entering English. Students at this level receive 2 hours of direct ELL instruction per day, which may include small group pull out instruction, and/or support from a qualified EL teacher in the mainstream classroom providing support through a push-in service model.

Level 3 - Developing

Students who are level three English Learners (ELs) are in the process of developing academic English skills and strategies. Students at this level receive 1 hour of direct ELL instruction per day, which may include small group pull out instruction, and/or support from a qualified EL teacher in the mainstream classroom providing support through a push-in service model.

Level 4 - Expanding

Students who are level four English Learners (ELs) are expanding their English. Students at this level receive 1 hour of direct ELL instruction per day, which may include small group pull out instruction and are in mainstream classes for the remainder of the day.

Level 5 – Bridging

Students who are level five English Learners (ELs) are approaching grade level proficiency in academic English. Students at this level do not receive direct ELL instruction. Students scoring Level 5 on the WAPT are placed in all day mainstream classes. Highly qualified ELL teachers will monitor the students' progress quarterly by checking in with the students and their teachers, reviewing their grades and helping teachers accommodate any needs in the mainstream classroom.

Level 6 – Reaching

Students at this level are performing on par with their grade level peers.

*Note that the district proficiency levels are consistent with WIDA proficiency levels.

Exit Procedures

Students exit from ELL services based on proficiency in all areas of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Your child must score a Level 5 with no domain score below a 4. A recommendation will be made by the ELL teacher based on the student's progress on state mandated testing. The mainstream education teachers and the ESL teacher may provide documentation that the student can be successful at grade level work. The current district graduation rate based on 2015 cohort data is 41.4%.

*The MN Department of Education states that parents have the right to withdraw students from English language services in a formal written request format to the child's school district.

Special Education

_____ For students with disabilities requiring a language instruction, ELL education must be included in the students Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Any questions – Please contact Shawn Fondow, Principal at 612-326-7200 or sfondow@mtcs.org

Or Andrea Miller,, ELL Coordinator at 612-928-2257 or amiller@mtcs.org

If you would like a Somali Interpreter,

Please contact Abdimahad Mohamed at amohamed@mtcs.org.

Hadii aad u baahan qof kuu tarjuma, fadlan la xiriir Abdimahad Mohamed, ama amohamed@mtcs.org

Shawn Fondow

Shawn Fondow, Principal

September 1, 2016

Date

Andrea Miller

_____ Andrea Miller, ELL Coordinator

September 1, 2016

Date

Date mailed home: _____