

Late-entrant ELL students

The Challenge and Opportunity

An extensive study of Boston's dropout rate revealed that English Language Learners (ELL) who enter BPS for the first time in high school are at much greater risk of dropping out.

Superintendent Carol R. Johnson's "Graduation for All" initiative includes targeted strategies for dropout prevention and recovery, including Newcomers Academy, to ensure academic success for new immigrant students.

English Language Learners in the Boston Public Schools

For more than 24,000 BPS students (about 43% of the total), English is not their home language.

Among these students:

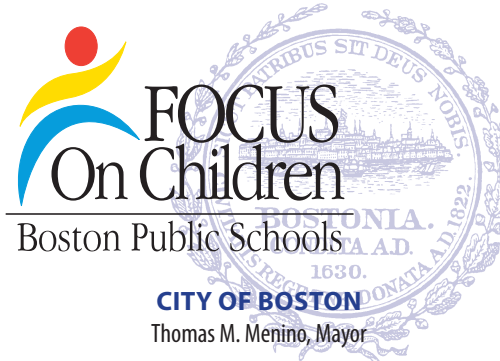
- About 10,000 are English-language proficient
- About 11,000 are Limited English Proficient (LEP) or English Language Learners (ELL)
- About 3,000 are Former Limited English Proficient (FLEP)
- All ELL students are eligible for English language support from highly qualified teachers of English as a Second Language (ESL)

BPS students come from more than 40 different countries around the globe.

www.bostonpublicschools.org/ELL

Newcomers Academy

100 Maxwell Street
Dorchester, MA 02124
phone 617.635.7993
fax 617.635.7990
newcomers@boston.k12.ma.us
Nydia O. Méndez, Director



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Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent
www.bostonpublicschools.org
617.635.9000

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Newcomers Academy



A Boston Public Schools
preparatory program for
English Language Learners



Students

Newcomers Academy will serve up to 250 Boston residents who:

- Are ages 14 through 18;
- Arrive in the U.S. during the school year;
- Have limited English proficiency;
- Have limited academic skills in their primary language (3 or more years behind); and/or
- Have experienced interruption in formal education in their countries of origin.

Goals

- Deliver high-quality education
- Accelerate English language acquisition
- Develop academic content vocabulary and higher level thinking skills
- Promote the development of social and academic skills that students will need when entering district high schools
- Build a foundation for long-term academic and socio-cultural success
- Serve as a learning site for best practices in educating secondary school English Language Learners who have interrupted schooling or gaps in their formal education.

Enrollment

All students new to the Boston Public Schools must visit a Family Resource Center with the appropriate documents to begin the registration process. English Language Learners are identified through a home language survey and testing provided at the Newcomer Assessment and Counseling Center. Students who meet the criteria for Newcomers Academy will be informed about the program. All students will complete a choice form to select a diploma-granting high school as well.

www.bostonpublicschools.org/register

Students may attend Newcomers Academy for one semester or up to two calendar years, depending on their academic need, before enrolling in a diploma-granting high school. Newcomers Academy staff will continue to monitor students' progress after they have left the program.

Staff

Students and families are supported by an experienced multilingual and multicultural staff of teachers, administrators, and counselors, as well as mentors and interns from area colleges and universities. The classroom student-to-teacher ratio will not exceed 15-to-1.

Partners

- University of Massachusetts Boston
- Boston University
- Mayor's Office of New Bostonians
- Local social service agencies

Academics & Assessment

All students engage in rigorous coursework, including:

- Intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) and literacy development; and
- Sheltered instruction in English, Math, Science, Technology, Social Studies, Arts, and Physical Education.

Students participate in field trips and community service to support their transition to life in Boston. Instruction takes place during the school day, with additional support available on Saturdays and during the summer.

Student progress is assessed through a variety of measures, including:

- MCAS exams, such as MELA-0 and MEPA, to assess reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills;
- Math notebooks;
- Reading and writing assignments;
- Community service participation; and
- Exit portfolio.

Location

Newcomers Academy is located at the former Thompson Middle School, 100 Maxwell Street, Dorchester. Beginning in September 2009, the program will be co-located with Boston International High School, a diploma-granting school for students new to the country. The programs will collaborate to provide services to students and families, as well as extra-curricular activities such as athletics, clubs, and social activities.