

## English Learners (EL) Department Vision Statement

EL programming at CCSC aims to develop English Learners' academic language and cultural competency. Teachers support the acceleration of the language acquisition process through the development of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. EL curriculum recognizes students' individual levels of academic preparedness and enables students to access and contribute to the general education classroom and pursue post-secondary opportunities. EL programming also seeks to prepare language learners to navigate and participate meaningfully in the community at large. In this work, we strive to acknowledge and value home cultures as assets to learning. We believe all teachers are EL teachers and seek to support the work of general education teachers through curricular collaboration and professional development.

**In order to achieve the vision above, students will be frequently engaged in the following learning activities** (based on guidance from [The Center for Applied Linguistics](#)):

1. **Developing Academic Language and Literacy:** Teachers will teach the language and language skills required for content learning by embedding in the curriculum a variety of texts for students to encounter vocabulary in authentic and content specific contexts. Students will use a variety of strategies to build their funds of language through determining meaning and utilizing their expanding repertoire in their writing.
2. **Connecting Background Knowledge and Culture to Learning:** Teachers will explicitly plan and incorporate ways to engage students in thinking about and drawing from their life experiences and prior knowledge. Students will serve as cultural ambassadors by making and sharing connections to self, prior knowledge, and other academic work.
3. **Increasing Comprehensible Input and Language Output:** Teachers will make meaning clear through visuals, demonstrations, and other means and give students multiple opportunities to produce language. Students will engage in all four domains of language (reading, writing, speaking and listening) in every class, based on their individual language level.
4. **Promoting Classroom Interaction:** Teachers will engage students in using English to accomplish academic tasks and social interactions. Students will be responsible for the "heavy-lifting", applying English language skills to engage in the ESL classroom and the community.
5. **Stimulate Higher Order Thinking and the Use of Learning Strategies:** Teachers will explicitly teach thinking skills and learning strategies to develop English language learners as effective, independent scholars. Students will apply learning strategies both in the ESL classroom and the general education classroom.