

BREAKING BARRIERS:

Empowering Newcomer & Refugee Students for Success

Council of Great City Schools
October 24, 2025
Cindy Flores, Director
Brad Keating, Assistant Superintendent



~285,000 Students

370+ School Programs

40,000+ Employees

~8,000 Square Miles

Urban and Rural Communities



Pre-Kindergarten

Early Literacy

Middle School Mathematics

Workforce and College Readiness









Superintendent

Jhone Ebert

Board of School Trustees

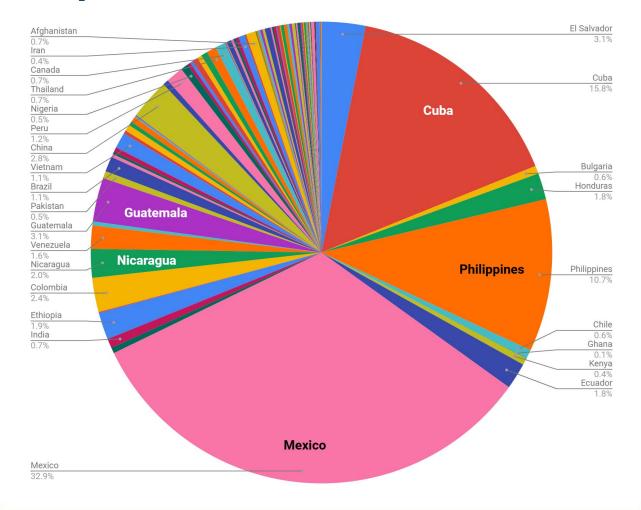
Irene Bustamante Adams, President Brenda Zamora, Vice President Tameka Henry, Clerk Isaac Barron, Member Lorena Biassotti, Member Linda P. Cavazos, Member Lydia Dominguez, Member Ramona Esparza-Stoffregan, Member Adam Johnson, Member Lisa Satory, Member Emily Stevens, Member

CCSD DATA SNAPSHOT: NEWCOMER AND REFUGEE STUDENTS (FY25)

45,503	Multilingual Learners	 Identified a language other than English on the home language survey (OLR) Scoring 1.0 - 4.4 Overall on the WIDA Screener
8,576	Newcomers	 Non U.S. born Not attended a U.S. school for more than three years
518	Refugees	 Entered with refugee status via a resettlement agency Flagged in Infinite Campus for 5 years

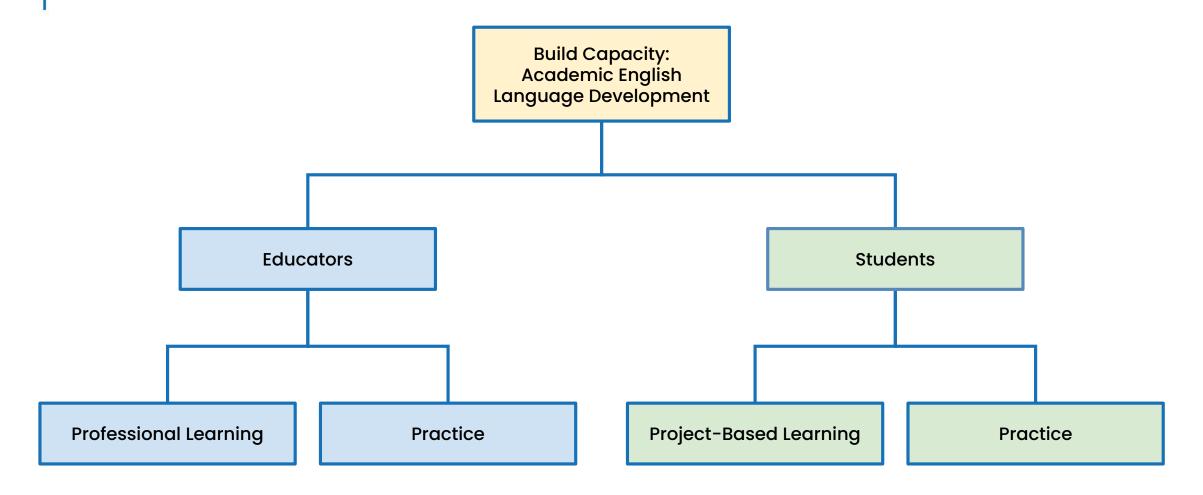
FOREIGN TRANSCRIPT EVALUATIONS

MS/HS



Mexico	589	
Cuba	283	
Philippines	191	
El Salvador	55	
Guatemala	55	
China	51	
Colombia	43	
Nicaragua	36	
Ethiopia	34	
Honduras	33	
Ecuador	33	
Venezuela	29	
Peru	22	
Vietnam	20	
Brazil	19	
Canada	13	
India	12	
Thailand	12	
Afghanistan	12	
Chile	11	
Bulgaria	10	
Pakistan	9	
Nigeria	9	
Kenya	8	
Spain	8	
Ukraine	8	
Iran	8	
Uganda		
Dominican Republic		
Costa Rica	7	

APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS



COORDINATING SUCCESS: BEHIND THE SCENES



9

Funding: Identify eligible sources for the program. 2

Recruitment: Recruit students in grades 2-12. 3

Hire and Train: Hire teachers and provide professional learning.

4

Transportation: Secure District bus routes and field trip transportation. 5

Organize:
Organize
opportunities
like ACT prep,
speakers,
conferences.

6

Partner Up: Establish community and educational partnerships.

BUILDING TEACHER CAPACITY: TARGETED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

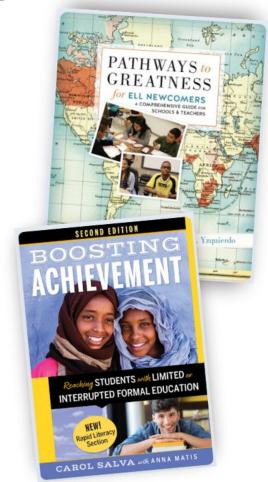
J

Preparing Your Secondary
Campus for Newcomer
Enrollment

Supporting SLIFE
Through Graduation:
Boosting Achievement

Pathways to Greatness for ELL Newcomers

Internationals Network:
Project-Based Learning



SUMMER INITIATIVE: BUILDING LANGUAGE AND CONFIDENCE







PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Primary Level (Grades 2-7): STEAM Focus

- Collaborative STEM challenges
 - Roller coasters, Coding, Robotics
- Career Exploration
 - o Financial Literacy, UNLV Nursing
- Art Projects
 - o Piñatas, Painting, Balloon Animals
- Educational Field Trips
 - Discovery Center, Shark Reef
- Oral Language & Vocabulary Growth













PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Secondary (Grades 8-12): Leadership Skills and Academic Growth

- Projects: Financial Literacy and Heroes
- Leadership & Team Building
- Educational Field Trip to Mount Charleston
- English and Academic Acceleration



















MEASURING THE BREAKTHROUGH

ACT Bootcamp Pre and Post: Composite score went up by an average of 6 Students Successfully Completed Online Credit Retrieval Visible Increase in English Language Use

Students Earned a 0.5
Elective Credit

28 Students Participated in NHI Workshops or Conferences

Students Made Friends and Lasting Memories







PARTNERSHIPS

















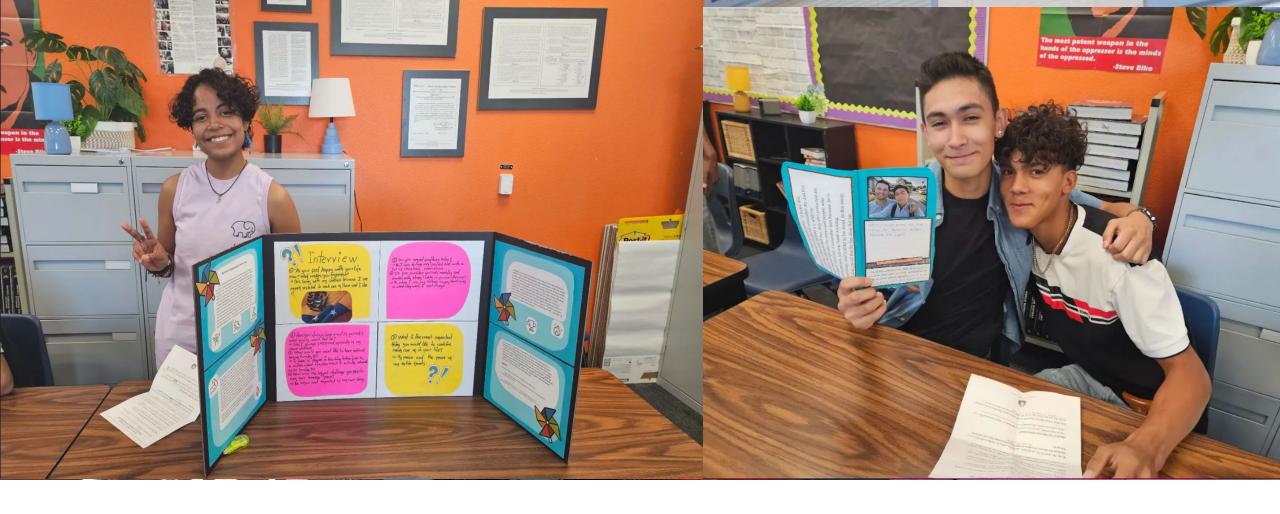












CLOSING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS