



MULTILINGUAL MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1



#MMED

Did you know?

In the 2024-25 school year, 7,965 seniors, representing 28.7% of graduating seniors, earned the prestigious State Seal of Biliteracy across 48 languages 🌈 To reach our 2025-26 goal of 10,770, we are aiming to support 2,805 more students in achieving this incredible milestone.

Too Many Tamales

Approximately 2,000 LAUSD students experienced the joy of "Too Many Tamales," a bilingual play based on author Gary Soto's award-winning children's book.



Go Blue Campaign

Multilingual Multicultural Education Department

The Blue level on the California English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) represents exceptional progress in English language development. It shows that English learners are making strong gains toward reclassification and academic success. This level also reflects that schools have sustained and continued systems and structures that effectively support English Learners' growth over time.

How Schools Can "Go Blue":

- Support daily opportunities for academic talk and language-rich lessons.
- Set clear language goals and monitor growth with students.
- Celebrate milestones and recognize English Learners' achievements.
- Engage families in learning celebrations and progress updates.

How Can Students Help the School "Go Blue":

- Use academic vocabulary in class discussions.
- Speaking, reading, writing, and listening in English and home languages every day.
- Confidently ask questions and share your thinking.
- Believe in their growth and embrace being bilingual, biliterate, and brilliant!

2025-2026 Multilingual Multicultural Master Plan

LET'S GO BLUE TOGETHER!

LAUSD

Multilingual Multicultural Education Department
Lydia Acosta Stephens, MMED Executive Director

[Click here to view](#)

Title VI American Indian/Alaskan Native & Indigenous Education Program

Join the Navajo Language Workshop Series! The Title VI American Indian and Indigenous Education Program is hosting six virtual workshops for students from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

- Workshop Dates: Jan 21, Feb 11, Feb 25, Mar 11, Mar 25, and Apr 8.
- Perks: Registered participants receive learning materials.
- Recognition: Students who complete all sessions will be honored at the 2025-2026 Native Brilliance Awards.

Priority registration is open to Title VI enrolled students.

For questions, contact Karmin Mendoza Hidalgo at: karmin.mendoza@lausd.net

International Magazine

Van Nuys High School proudly announces the release of its first International Magazine, created and designed by International Newcomer students. This student-led publication features multilingual storytelling and cultural reflections, with articles translated into multiple languages to honor home languages. Students collaborated on writing, photography, translation, and layout to celebrate belonging and global perspectives. We invite our community to read and uplift this milestone project showcasing newcomer creativity and leadership. [Click here to view](#)

Message from our Executive Director

Wishing you a bright and joyful New Year!

Thank you for the care, creativity, and heart you bring to your classrooms each day. Your impact reaches far beyond the school year. Thank you for living the 2025 Multilingual Multicultural Master Plan.

-Lydia Acosta Stephens



Teacher Feature

Mrs. Chung, Denker Elementary

Mrs. Chung's KDL 2nd Grade class celebrated the holiday season by singing Christmas songs in multiple languages, reflecting our students' diverse cultures. After learning the 12 Days of Christmas, students created their own version of the lyrics inspired by their cultural experiences and holiday celebrations at home. We love sharing and celebrating the many traditions that make our classroom community so special.



A Message from Ms. Wang

I want to share how meaningful this work is to me. As the teacher who helped start the Mandarin program, I feel incredibly proud seeing how it has grown and succeeded. Knowing I had a part in building a program that now supports LAUSD students and our community is truly special. Thank you for your dedication and for continuing this important work.
-Ms. Wang

Upcoming Events

- WLC Teacher PD 1/31, 2/21 & 3/14/26: [Click here](#)
- TK-12th Grade Multilingualism Awards Family Sessions: [Click here](#)
- Navajo Language Workshops 1/21, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, & 4/8/26: [Click here](#)
- International Newcomer Conference 1/31/26: [Click here](#)

Turning Dreams Into Reality

Join us on Saturday, January 31, 2026, for the 6th Annual International Newcomer Student Leadership Conference (INSLC). This event brings newcomer students together to build leadership, confidence, and voice through culturally responsive learning.

[Click here to view the event program.](#)

Updates

Seal of Biliteracy

All high schools will implement the 2025–26 Seal of Biliteracy, this initiative affirms students' bilingualism and supports college and career readiness.

- High School State Seal of Biliteracy Policy: [Click here to view](#)
- 12th Grade LAUSD and State Seal of Biliteracy Criteria Infographic: [Click here to view](#)

World Languages & Cultures (WLC):

WLC teachers who completed the December WLC-EGI collaborative professional development have earned their EGI certification—kudos to all participants!



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