

What is a Newcomer Program?

The Newcomer Program at Compton Unified School District has been developed to meet the academic, literacy, acculturation, English Language development and career needs of students in grades six through twelve who have been in US schools for less than two years and have low English language proficiency. A district-wide Newcomer Program will ensure that language minority students who are English limited proficient learn to use English competently for personal, social and academic purposes, transitioning successfully at their ability level into the English-only program.

Who is a Newcomer?

Newcomers are those students new to our country, to our schools, to the English language, and, in some cases, to literacy experiences. A newcomer is formally defined as a limited English proficient (LEP) student who has been in the United States for less than two years and who demonstrates little or no ability to express him or herself in English. For the purposes of Compton Unified's Newcomer Program, that definition is expanded to include students who have been in US schools for three years or less and have low English language development proficiency as measured by the California English Language Development Test (CELDT).

How will I know what to expect if my child is in the Newcomer Program?

An orientation meeting will occur every year for parents of students in the Newcomer Program. Additional parent meetings will occur every quarter. Parents are also encouraged to keep in regular contact with their student's teacher via phone and/or e-mail.

How can parents help their children learn English?

Research shows that children who are literate in their first language perform much better in school than children who are not literate in their first language. Parents should continue to interact with their children in their first language and to encourage them to become bilingual.

- **Talk with your child about school in your language.**
- **Read to your child in your language.**
- **Ask your child to read to you in English and expect your child to read every day.**
- **Tell your child stories in your language.**
- **Encourage your child to complete homework assignments.**
- **Encourage your child to read and write in your language.**



The Newcomer Program



for
**Limited English Proficient
Students**

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How is the Newcomer Program different from other language support programs?

The Newcomer Program utilizes self-contained classrooms, enabling teachers to focus on cohesive language development goals during the school day. This environment also offers a nurturing, yet challenging environment that fosters risk-taking to accelerate language learning. Students will receive instruction with primary language support in classes no larger than 25 students.

Additionally, classes will be extended after school and during the summer so that newcomers can develop their English proficiency both continuously and quickly in order to acculturate to the American school system.

What are the instructional goals of the program?

This program is meant to be a transitional program to facilitate the rapid acquisition of basic English language skills.

The program prepares students for grade level content classes and mainstream electives by:

- Developing students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English.
- Assisting students with acculturation to U.S. schools, community, and culture.
- Developing students' school academic and social skills.

What types of classes will the Newcomer Program provide?

During the school day, newcomers will spend time in the Newcomer class relative to their overall English proficiency and ability to be successful in classrooms with their English-speaking peers.

Some newcomers may spend only two periods, English and English Language Development (ELD), with the newcomer program. Others may spend up to a half-day, and the number of periods may vary depending upon the student. In all cases, each newcomer's individual needs will be considered when making curricular decisions.

When will the newcomer students interact with native English speakers?

Newcomer students will join English-speaking peers for physical education, lunch, and elective classes such as art, music and technology. Some newcomers may also join other classrooms for content courses.

How are students graded?

Students will receive a progress report after the first six (6) weeks and a report card at the end of each quarter. These will include areas of study covered in class, as ELD, English, Math, Science, and Social Science.

For how long will a student participate in the Newcomer Program?

The decision to exit a student from the Newcomer Program is made on a case-by-case basis considering teacher observations, formal and informal student assessments, and the student's portfolio of class work. We consider the whole learner, as well as the levels of support available at the home schools. The student will transition into his or her grade level classes with continued language support through sheltered instruction.

A student can remain in the program up to one year (two semesters) from his or her arrival date if needed. Some students may exit after one semester if exit criteria are met. Each transition is as unique as each of our learners.

Where is the Newcomer Program housed?

The district will offer the Newcomer Program for sixth to eighth grade students at Roosevelt Middle School, and for high school students at Dominguez High School.

All eligible newcomer students will be bused to either location to participate in the program.

When the students meet the exit criteria they transition to their home school to join other language support programs.