



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



Emely Baten Grave

TOPIC

Improving Academic Support for ELL Students

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

As you already know, students coming from different countries into ACHS are placed in the IA so it can be more helpful and make students feel more comfortable but ELL students’ academic requirements are not adequately met by the International Academy’s enforcement and assistance. Despite the program’s goal of offering equal education opportunities, many students still face obstacles. ELL students are being affected by this issue. These issues can have a negative effect on students’ academic achievement since there are insufficient resources intended to support students’ success. This issue matters at ACHS because 38% of students in ACPS are ELL students. Not many ELL students reach full English proficiency. Due to ACHS diversity of students which includes a large number of ELL students who require assistance in order to thrive in school.

BASELINE DATA & GOAL

Only 10% of ELL students at ACHS reach full English proficiency.

My goal is to raise that percentage to atleast 45% by streghthening the IA in a supportive way that helps students.

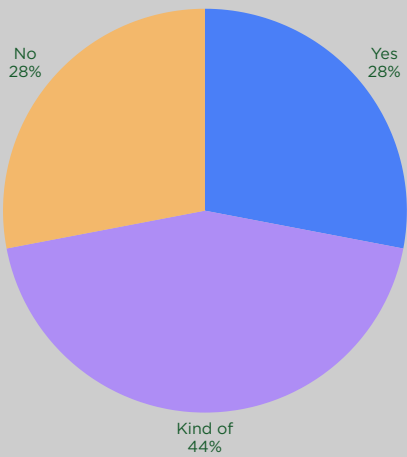
CYCP GOAL & STRATEGIC AREA

My issue connects with school success CYCP goal.

Ensuring ELL students recieve the educational support they require to thrive in school is the CYCP objective associated with my issue. ACHS should increase ELL student access to teaching strategies and classroom settings that allow them to participate fully in the learning process

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

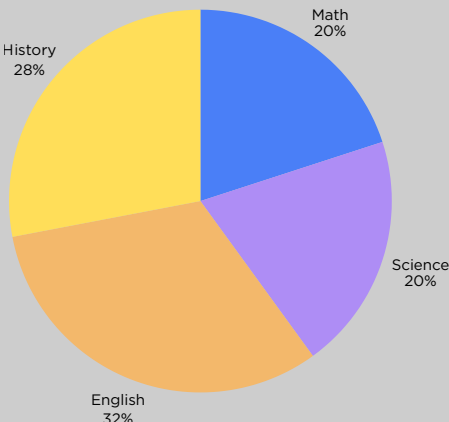
Do you understand the lessons being taught in class?



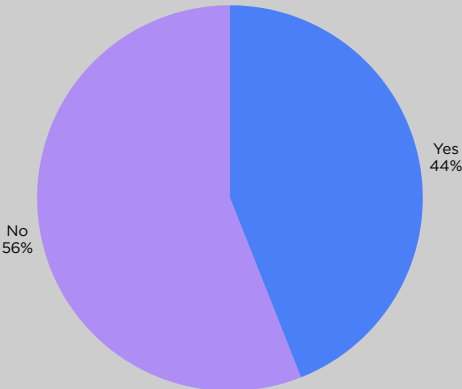
This shows that the majority of ELL students still struggle to learn English and require ongoing assistance. This is important since students’ ability to comprehend lessons is strongly impacted by their understanding of English. Several students can be disadvantaged intellectually. According to my data this also shows that a large number of ELL students are having difficulty comprehending the material being presented in class.

English has the largest percentage, indicating that English Language Learners still face significant challenges with their language growth. English requires a highly proficient use of the language, which is occasionally difficult even though all topics require it. The fewer percentages in science and math indicate that these courses may be easier for students to understand since they rely less on extensive reading and more on visual learning.

Which subject is the hardest due to not understanding?



Do you think your teachers provide enough support for you at school?



According to my data, only 44% of English language learners think they get proper help from teachers in the IA, compared to over half (56%) who think they don’t. This implies that a large number of students believe their understanding of English or academic demands are not being completely satisfied. This is essential since assistance from teachers is crucial to students achievement, particularly for ELL students who might require additional help comprehending.

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED?

ACHS provides the International Academy for new students coming from different countries so it can be more helpful and to also make students feel more comfortable. Instead of using distinct English-only classes, ACPS also offers a curriculum-based ELL program approach in which kids learn English through standard classes like math, science, and history.

WHO CAN HELP?

Stakeholder 1- Dr. Bethany Nickerson - Executive Director of ELL Services. Dr. Nickerson has the power and ability to enhance ELL assistance in ACPS

Stakeholder 2- Dr. Pierrette Flinney - Instruction and teacher expectations. Dr. Finney can help with the ways teachers give lessons that help ELL students with their English proficiency.



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

ACHS has the International Academy program and WIDA testing to see where ELL students are at and their progress throughout the years.

Teachers claim that students skills are not always reflected on tests some may comprehend a little amount of the materials being shown in class but still struggle with the language. However, since language requirements and standards in the classroom can suddenly become more challenging, some students find it difficult to adjust to regular lessons. Students may still have trouble comprehending lessons.

IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

My data shows that students are still not completely better off. 72% of students responses still need guidance with the lessons being taught in class but they don't receive teacher support. Although ACPS supports ELL students with programs like the IA , WIDA testing, and with content-based ELL program. My survey responses still indicate that students still encounter difficulties. Instead of my issue visibly getting better it seems to be staying the same.

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE? (YOUR SOLUTION)

According to my data 56% of students feel unsupported and 72% of students do not fully understand the lessons being taught. This indicates that the IA is not functioning properly. ACPS must implement more speaking and visual materials. They should also seek to hire ELL certified or bilingual educators and for them to keep a closer eye on the growth of ELL students so that assistance may be modified. Students will feel more confident and do well in class as a result of these adjustments, which would deal with the challenges that they face in classes like English and History.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Students knowledge and assistance would increase if my solution was implemented particularly for ELL students. Teachers would be able to monitor students development more effectively, while ELL students would improve from bilingual assistance and stronger instructions. Everyone would benefit from a greater learning environment as a result.

LEARN MORE

Alexandria Library Community and Language Resources. They offer English language learners classes to practice English
Casa Chirilagua- Casa Chiri is also a program that helps with ESL classes and also help with after school and college preparation programs.

CITATIONS

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