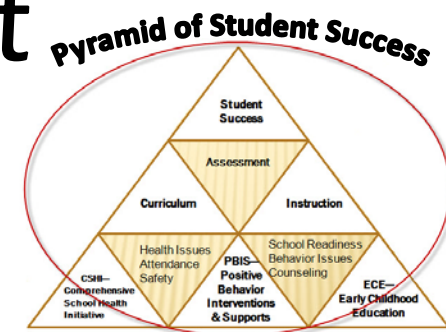




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# Snowline School District

## English Learner Support Encourages Student Success



Imagine moving to a foreign country and not knowing the language. Then imagine you must go to school and learn the language, as well as all the other subjects. That is what many of our students experience on a daily basis.

It is the responsibility of all school districts to ensure that these students who are learning English as a second language become proficient in English so that they can be successful in all their academic classes. The commitment made by Snowline School District students, staff members, and families to work together makes certain that English learners will experience student success.



Pictured with a few of her students is Niki Pratt, teacher at Pinon Mesa Middle School.

Mrs. Pratt teaches English language development. She says, "The students want to learn. They believe it is important to be in school and are serious about learning. When work is given they are happy to do it because they know they are bettering themselves."

11th grade Serrano High School student, Antonio, who is in his first year of school in the United States, shares his experience as an English learner student:

*"Learning a new language has been a great experience. While I have been in the U.S. I have learned a bit of the language. It is not easy, but it is nice to know that little by little I am learning, and I will not give up. I am working to better myself in the language and hope to perfect it one day. Coming to a new country and learning the language has been worth it and has become an important goal for me."*



Amy Janssen, who teaches 2nd grade at Vista Verde Elementary School, enjoys learning about her students' cultures and where they came from. "I'm always looking for ways to connect the words with their meaning for my students. I find I talk a lot with my hands, use songs and chants, and lots of pictures and realia to help them make the connections."



Elizabeth, 12th grade student at Serrano High School, first came to the United States in 6th grade. "At first it was hard, I couldn't understand the teachers. It took awhile before I was comfortable learning. Dr. George helped a lot last year with essays and vocabulary."



**Snowline Joint Unified School District offers English as a Second Language classes to those families participating in the Even Start Family Literacy Program which serves parents and children ages 0-7.**



Vanessa, 10th grade student at Serrano High School, speaks English and Spanish on a daily basis. She says, "When speaking English I have to figure out what to say because Spanish is in my head."



Estela Villasenor, who came from Sinaloa, Mexico, wanted to learn English to help her child in school and enrolled in the Even Start program. She feels it is important to be able to communicate when she talks with her child's teacher, or when going to the school office. The mother of two says, "Sometimes I volunteer in my child's class at school. I can help children who do not yet understand or speak a lot of English, and I can help the teacher, too."



Eva Romero from Zacatecas, Mexico, has three children and has participated in the Even Start program for five years. According to her, it has made a very big difference in her children's success at school. Her first child started kindergarten understanding no English. But her next son had been a part of the Even Start program and understood English when he started school. It was much easier for him. "In my opinion, it's a wonderful program for parents and kids because when you go any place you have to ask for someone who speaks Spanish. People respond with a different attitude if you speak English."



Since moving from Guanajuato, Mexico, Paulino Rosas has been in the United States for 8 years. When he got married and had a child of his own, he decided he needed to learn English and came to the Even Start program. "My vocabulary is improving, and I am learning to read and write in English. Understanding and speaking English makes a big difference for me. When I go to the doctor or a shopping center I don't need to ask if someone speaks Spanish anymore to help me."

### DID YOU KNOW:

- The district has **967** students who are identified as English learners.
- It takes about **2** years to learn English well enough to communicate socially.
- It takes **5-7** years to learn English well enough to be successful in academic classes.
- In addition to Spanish and Korean, other languages spoken by our students are Arabic, Greek, and Russian, and Tagalog.