

Charleroi Area School District's Commitment to Education

The Charleroi Area School District (CASD) is dedicated to providing a high-quality education for every student within a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. This commitment extends to our growing population of English Language Learners (ELLs), who enrich our school community with their diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Through dedicated staff, supportive programs, and a commitment to inclusivity, the Charleroi Area School District continues to adapt and respond to the educational needs of all students, ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to succeed.

What Does ELL Mean?

English Language Learners (ELLs) are students learning English as a second language and whose first language is not English. Many of our ELL students are multilingual, contributing to the rich diversity of our school community. We serve the educational needs of students born in over 26 countries.

Understanding Plyler vs. Doe

In June 1982, the Supreme Court ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* that states cannot constitutionally deny students a free public education based on their immigration status. This landmark decision affirms the right of all students, regardless of their background, to access public education.

What Is CASD Required to Do When a New Student Enrolls?

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) mandates that schools identify English Learners (ELs) through the English Learner Identification Procedure (ELIP). This process includes the following steps:

1. Home Language Survey: All new students must complete this survey, regardless of race, nationality, or language origin. This survey must be administered without delaying enrollment.
2. Family Interview: If the Home Language Survey indicates a language other than English, a family interview is conducted to determine if the student is an EL. An interpreter can be used if necessary.
3. Placement: Identified ELs are placed into a Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP).

The ELIP must be completed within 14 days of the start of school for students who enroll during the school year or within 30 days for students who enroll at the beginning of the school year.

CASD ELL Student Enrollment Data

Over the past six years, CASD has experienced significant growth in student enrollment:

- 2019-2020 School Year: Total student enrollment in grades K-12 was 1,424.
- 2024-2025 School Year: Total student enrollment in grades K-12 increased to 1,567.

The number of English Language Learners has grown dramatically:

- 2019-2020 School Year: ELL enrollment was 12 students.
- 2023-2024 School Year: ELL enrollment rose to 175 students.
- 2024-2025 School Year: ELL enrollment is now 225 students.

2024-2025 ELL Student Enrollment Breakdown

Charleroi Area Elementary Center (Grades K-5): 133 ELL students

- 59% of our ELL students are in Kindergarten and 1st Grade.
- 46 ELL students in Kindergarten
- 33 ELL students in 1st Grade

Charleroi Area Middle School (Grades 6-8): 37 ELL students

Charleroi Area High School (Grades 9-12): 34 ELL students

Responding to the Increase in ELL Enrollments

In response to the increase in ELL enrollments:

- In the 2019-2020 school year, CASD had one full-time English Language Learner teacher.
- In the 2024-2025 school year, CASD now has four full-time English Language Learner teachers.
- Due to high enrollment in Kindergarten, two additional full-time Kindergarten teaching positions were created.

Support from the PA Migrant Education Program

The Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program (PA-MEP) provides federal funding to support our after-school and summer school educational services for migratory children. This program assists our district in ensuring the continuity of educational services for students whose schooling has been interrupted and provides grants to establish or improve education programs for migrant children.

Rights of Parents and Caregivers

Parents or caregivers whose first language is not English have the right to free translation and interpretation services during the enrollment process. This ensures that all families have equitable access to information and resources.

Is our school district receiving additional funding support because of our surge in ELL student enrollment?

Yes, our funding from the state is Based on Average Daily Membership (ADM)

The Average Daily Membership (ADM) refers to all resident students for whom the school district is financially responsible. It is calculated by dividing the total days of student membership by the number of days the school is in session. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) uses this metric to determine school funding.

Our School District's Basic Education Funding for 2024-2025 is estimated to be \$7,777 for each student, based on a 2020-2023 average ADM of 1,423 students.

- For the 2024-2025 School Year, based on the ADM, the state has given our school district \$17,497,580 towards our budget.

What is the general operating budget for the Charleroi Area School District?

- \$30,697,510
 - Local - 39% = \$11,972,028
 - State - 57% = \$17,497,580
 - Federal - 4% = \$1,227,900

What is the cost of student tuition at Charleroi?

- Grades K-6 = \$11,854.97
- Grades 7-12 = \$13,389.62