Multilingual Learner Program
Goodwin University Magnet School System

Dear Parents, Guardians and Families,

The Multilingual Learner Program at Goodwin University Magnet School System is responsible for identifying and supporting Kindergarten - 12th grade students who speak a home language other than English and who are not yet proficient in English.

Welcome to Goodwin University Magnet School System (GUMSS). We are so glad that you trust us with your child's education and that you are part of our Multilingual Learner (ML) program. We offer English language development, English and bilingual support, and our World language program offers Spanish for Native Speakers.

In our three buildings, we have four certified educators to work with your scholar in the Multilingual/English learner program. Our educators are committed to promoting students' proficiency in their native language as they acquire social and academic English. GUMSS is proud of the accomplishments of our ML population. We strive to continuously provide academic, cultural and social support to all MLs. Our students have the opportunity to achieve the CT Seal of Biliteracy by demonstrating proficiency in one or more languages and meeting the graduation requirement for English.

Our program currently services approximately 165 scholars whose languages include Spanish, Urdu, Arabic, Portuguese, Twi, and Karen. We welcome families from around the world- Brazil, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Puerto Rico, Peru, and many more! Many of our students were born right here in Connecticut. Regardless of where your scholars' English-learning journey begins, our team supports their language development throughout their school experience.

Beginning July 1, 2024, school districts will give parents and guardians of students who are learning another language (Multilingual learners - MLs) a list of their rights. A new Connecticut law says that schools must do this every year to keep everyone informed and protected. This list of rights will make sure that these parents and students are protected when they get specialized language education. The list will be given to parents in the

language they understand best and will also be available on the school's website. Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is a Multilingual/English Learner? How are they identified?

A Multilingual Learner (ML) is a student who is exposed to a language other than English. They may speak another language at home or live with someone who does. They may be studying Spanish at school. Based on the answers on the Home Language Survey (HLS) when students first enroll in CT schools, students are tested to see if they qualify based on their speaking, listening skills (Kindergarten) and in reading and writing proficiency in English in later grades.

How do scholars exit the Multilingual/English learner program?

A student will be considered an **English learner** until they reach mastery on the LAS Links or the CAAELP. The Connecticut State Department of Education uses the LAS Links Online Assessment for all English learners in Grades K-12. This exam assesses English language proficiency in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education website. Connecticut's K-12 EL students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) documenting a significant cognitive disability may be considered for the Connecticut Alternate Assessment of English Language Proficiency (CAAELP).

Multilingual Learners Exit Criteria:

To meet CT exit criteria, the ML student must obtain all of the following on the LAS Links Online Assessment:

- an overall Level 4 or 5 on the LAS Links
- a Reading score of 4 or higher **AND** a Writing score of 4 or higher

Some Definitions:

- **Home Language Survey:** The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, and Connecticut state law require school districts to collect information about a student's language background at the time of enrollment/registration in order to determine whether the student is a potential English learner (or, is someone who potentially may need English language assistance services).
- **English learner (EL)**: An English learner is a K-12th grade scholar who is exposed to another language at home and needs support with grade level curriculum in English.
- **Multilingual learner (ML)**: Any student who is exposed to more than one language. They may or may not receive EL services or study a second language.

- **Emergent Bilingual/Bilingual student**: A student who speaks and understands (or reads and writes) a language in addition to English. A bilingual program in CT has to have 20 or more scholars who speak the same language. Students may participate for up to 30 months, or more with a waiver from the State. All GUMSS schools offer support in Spanish in their bilingual programs.
- **Language Transition Support Services (LTSS)**: Language support which is provided to students who have had 30 months in a bilingual program but have not yet met the English mastery standard (on the LAS Links).
- **Mastery/Redesignation**: A student has met the criteria to exit the EL program has reached mastery or is redesignated.
- **Monitoring**: After mastery, a student will receive 2-5 years of monitoring; an educator will check in on their academic progress and make sure they receive support if still needed.
- **Seal of Biliteracy**: The Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by a school, school district, or state in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. This is done in conjunction with the World Language Program, but it also pertains to languages that scholars have learned at home or in other specialized language programs.

What does a program look like for Multilingual Learners at Goodwin University Magnet Schools?

We offer English Language support or Bilingual (Spanish) Support in all of our buildings. Students receive English language/Bilingual (Spanish) support services in their classroom (push-in) or out of their classroom (pull-out) by a certified educator at Riverside Magnet School and CTRA middle school program.

At CTRA high school, students receive credit for an English Language Support class and may receive push in support and modifications in their academic courses. Students who are considered newcomers (in their first three years in CT) or have LAS Links scores at the beginning levels will have services daily or up to 4 hours/week when feasible. Intermediate level students have support 2-3 days/week and proficient students who have not yet met mastery have support as needed. GUMSS offers language support during summer programs and after school as well.

Educators working with Multilingual Scholars:

GUMSS-Administrator	Jessica Gomez-Bedosky jgomezbedosky@goodwinmagnetsystem.org	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

GUMSS- All schools	Karen Lapuk klapuk@goodwinmagnetsystem.org	ML District Coordinator 860-994-1951
Riverside Magnet School	Erin Burns Thiery ethiery@goodwinmagnetsystem.org Grecia Poma gpoma@goodwinmagnetsystem.org	ESOL teacher 860-709-6810 Bilingual teacher
Connecticut River Academy Middle School Program	Laura Martin lmartin1@goodwinmagnetsystem.org	ESOL teacher
Connecticut River Academy High School	Keyra Colon Rodriguez kcolon@goodwinmagnetsystem.org	ESOL teacher

Resources for Parents from the State of CT:

- **Information for Parents and Guardians of English Learners**
- **Información para padres y tutores de estudiantes de inglés**
- **Informações para os pais e responsáveis de aprendizes de inglês**

Resources to learn at home:

- **Colorín colorado**: A bilingual site for families of MLs and educators
- **Being Bilingual is a Superpower**: Video- available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Haitian Creole, and French
- **NY State Bilingual Glossaries**: Bilingual glossaries in multiple languages for all subject areas; appropriate for testing and support
- **ManyThings.org**: Interactive word games, puzzles, quizzes, exercises, slang, proverbs. Great for vocabulary practice!

Here are TEN terrific sites that provide a variety of tools, tips, and materials from Marilee Coles-Ritchie:

1. **BBC Learning English**
   Summary: Engaging lessons, videos, quizzes, and practice activities for learners at all levels. The site includes sections on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and more.
2. **Duolingo**
   Summary: A gamified language learning platform offering courses in English from

various native languages. It includes speaking, listening, reading, and writing exercises. There are both paid and FREE options.

3. **ESL Bits**
   Summary: Audiobooks, short stories, news articles, and songs designed to improve reading and listening skills. Texts come with audio support and comprehension activities.
4. **British Council Learn English Teens**
   Summary: It is a great resource because it focuses specifically on content for teenagers, including videos, games, grammar and vocabulary exercises, and reading and writing practice.
5. **Khan Academy**
   Summary: Did you know that the Khan Academy also offers resources for Multilingual Learners? The site includes grammar lessons and reading practice.
6. **Voice of America (VOA) Learning English**
   Summary: The site offers news stories and lessons in common US English, with leveled options for broadcasts and transcripts. It covers a range of topics, including current events, science, and culture.
7. **News in Levels**
   Summary: This site is great for social studies content. It offers simplified news articles written at three different levels of difficulty, aimed at helping language learners in their Zone of Proximal Development improve their reading and listening skills.
8. **Uniteforliteracy.com**
   Summary: What an amazing ebook library! The sources include elementary grades, early readers, newcomers, and Spanish-speaking folks wanting to read together. For elementary teachers, you can share this with community members and parents who want to contribute to their child's reading development. They will be able to read and listen to audio in both English and Spanish.
9. **Childrenslibrary.org**
   Summary: The International Children's Digital Library offers digital books in many different languages. Most are PDF-formatted picture books, with some chapter books. The founding organization promotes respect and understanding of diverse cultures and languages by providing access to the best of children's literature from around the world.
10. **Storylineonline.net**
    ***Summary*:** What a fun find! This site was created by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG-AFTRA Foundation). It's super popular for a reason. Their website offers recorded picture book read-alouds by well-known actors. The best feature for multilingual learners is that the stories are presented as YouTube videos, so students can view subtitles in many languages.