

EL/DL NEWSLETTER

MAY '23

WE TEACH THE WORLD TO BE BETTER TOGETHER !

English Learners are the fastest growing student population group. Our English Learners Department is committed to helping English Learners acquire the necessary language skills to succeed, not only in school, but in life as well. We believe every student has the potential to become a productive and valuable member of our community. Thank you for all that you do for our EL students and their families!



English Learners

MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Thank you for planning and hosting multicultural experiences at your schools throughout this school year. These celebrations are excellent opportunities to be unified by pride in our families and to celebrate all the richness and benefits we get from our diverse communities. We look forward to seeing more of these global fairs, diversity days, multicultural nights or whichever name you choose next year. If you have never planned or hosted one, please reach out to start planning !



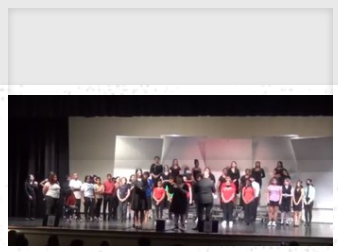
Check out more of the Multicultural Festival at Kiser Middle [here](#).



Check out more of the International Day at Irving Park Elementary [here](#).



Check out more of the Multicultural Fashion Show at Archer Elementary [here](#).



Check out Penn=Griffin's choir singing one of the most popular Spanish children's song [here](#)



Multicultural day at Allen Jay Elementary



Check out more of the International Festival at Lindley Elementary [here](#)



Check out more of the International Day at Newcomers School [here](#)



Check out more the Diversity Day at Dudley High [here](#)



Check out more of the Hispanic Heritage Assembly at Faulkner Elementary [here](#)



Check out more the
Multicultural Night at Allen
Middle [here](#).



Check out more of the
Multicultural Festival at
Southern High [here](#).



Check out more the
Multicultural Night at Eastern
Middle [here](#)

END OF THE YEAR REMINDERS

* Check your brand new ACCESS 2023 scores in your EL data folder. ("School" ACCESS 23")

* Official ACCESS WIDA reports will be sent home in the fall.

* Make sure all students that have been tested and/or are currently served (Categories 1, 2 and 3) have a blue folder in their CUM file.

* Blue folders should contain WIDA Screener scoring sheets and PNCFs.

* All 2022-2023 PNCFs must be filed.

* Email pertinent information about your rising 9th grade students to the High school EL teacher.

* Keep files for at least 5 years for audit purposes.

* No testing materials should be kept in your room. Please make sure they are locked up in the testing room.

* If possible, make a list of your students with notes/ info that will help you and/or other EL teachers to group students next year. You may include information about testing accommodations and suitable testing environment for ACCESS (e.g., Maria would do better taking the Speaking test one-on-one.)

* Continue to keep student portfolios (materials that show growth over time). Save work samples of students that are currently in IPS for future reference.

* Think about how to use walls next year to show 31's implementation



* Return books and dictionaries you may have checked out from our 3Ls Library in the EL Office.

*Complete all your Performance Matters course surveys.



EL PARENT REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

On Monday, May 8, the GCS literacy team and EL teachers spoke with English Learners families and answered their questions about the writing process in elementary, middle and high school. EL families also learned about school safety, the 3Ls framework and interpreting services. The English Learners' Parent Representative forum was a creation from Superintendent Dr. Oakley's Better Together Community Conversations.

See some of the highlights of this event [here!](#)

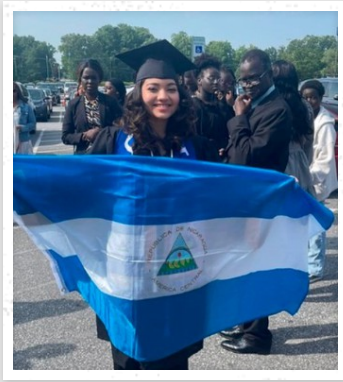


DORIS HENDERSON NEWCOMER SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTED BY EDNC!

We are proud of the work, dedication, high quality instruction and love put into supporting our Newcomer students and EL students. State representatives certainly put the spotlight at the state level on our unique school one more time. Check out a "hot off the press" article published by EDNC featuring our Newcomers School [here](#).

EL SENIORS SPOTLIGHT

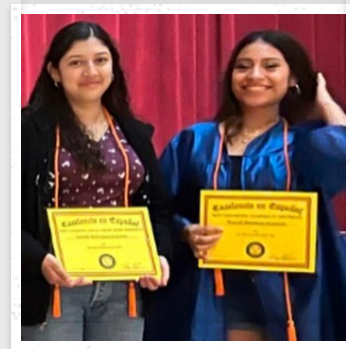
We are so proud of all our EL Seniors! Please keep sending their photos to feature them and see more of our EL seniors [here](#).



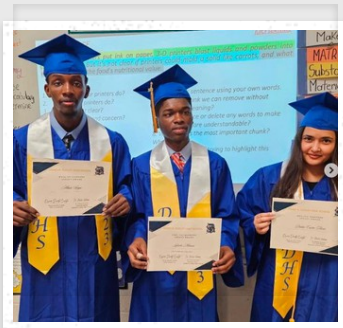
EL Senior at GTCC Middle College



EL Seniors at Southwest High



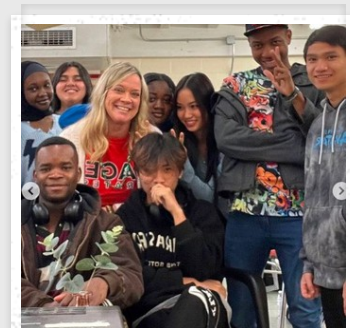
EL Seniors at Kearns Academy



EL Seniors at Dudley High



EL Seniors at Southern High



EL Seniors at Page High

COMMUNICATING WITH ENGLISH LEARNER FAMILIES

All GCS schools **MUST** ensure that EL students can participate equally in all educational programs. EL parents are entitled to meaningful communication in a language they can understand and to adequate access to information about any program, service, or activity. You can access the network of our GCS interpreters, just by contacting Ms. Martinez, our Interpreter & Translator Coordinator, at martinl3@gcsnc.com.

Our District also uses Language Line to communicate with non-English speaking families. Language Line is available from any phone, any time. This over-the-phone interpreting service makes three way calls in more than 300 languages and dialects 24/7.

Please make sure, your school is using this outstanding resource! More details [here](#).





EL RETENTION

Please make sure you keep the following in mind when discussing grade retention for your ELs:

*According to the Office of Civil Right, "It is their policy to find a violation of the Regulation Implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 if ELs students are retained in grade for failure to demonstrate basic skills in English". "Refer to Lau v. Nichols 1970 for further information

*EL students cannot be retained due to language :According to state law, the final decision concerning promotion/retention ultimately rests with the principal.

-Implications for English Learners: When considering an EL student for retention, please make certain that teachers have the appropriate documentation to demonstrate that lack of English is in no way related to lack of academic success in the grade/course.

Please review the document below with more guidelines.



EL Retention Considerations.docx

[Download](#)

21.3 KB



EL FIELD TRIP TO B&N

With the collaboration of UNCG and the Teague Foundation, English-learner students at Page High visited Barnes & Noble bookstore to explore resources and get new books. Each student received a gift card to purchase books at the store. This was the first time for some of our EL students visiting a bookstore. Kudos to all EL teachers who contributed with gift cards to buy books for all our scholars. Check out more of this awesome project [here](#).

THE HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY WILL BE IN POWERSCHOOL FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR

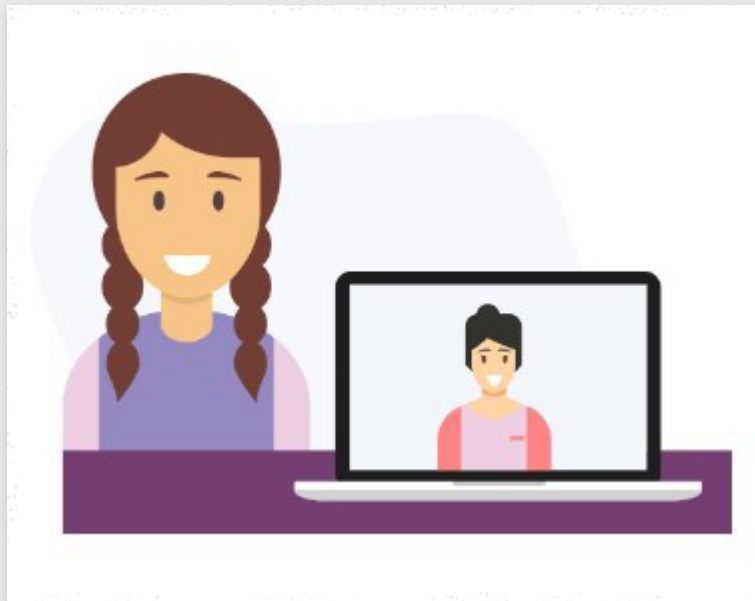
Great news! The HLS survey will become part of the EL student record in PowerSchool in the 2023-2024 school year. The HLS will help us track:

- Students that require screening for ESL services
- Students coming from other WIDA states with scores
- Students who have another language other than English on their HLS but it was determined through the HLS process that the student does not need ESL services
- Students already screened for services by other PSUs (the HLS record will transfer with the student record in PS)



Home Language Survey

We will have more details later in the fall!



FREE ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR ALL GCS STAFF

GCS is using federal relief funds to provide additional mental health support to all GCS teachers and staff. These online services, provided by E-Therapy, are confidential and at no cost to staff for the remainder of this school year. To sign up, email Colleen at E-Therapy at colleen.m@electronic-therapy.com.

If you would like to find out more about E-Therapy, please visit their [website](#).



DPI NEWS

The NCDPI Multilingual Office invites ALL educators of English Learners to participate in the Growing Success for ELs Summer Conference.

This year's conference will be held at McDeeds Elementary School in Southern Pines, NC. During this summer's conference, educators will have the following opportunities:

- *Best Practices;
- *Common Space: Collaboration and Co-Teaching for ELs;
- *Engaging Schools, Families, & Communities for EL Success;
- *Making Content Comprehensible
- *Taking Flight for Academic Success: Integrating Content and Language Development.

Please find more information [here](#).

DUAL LANGUAGE NEWS

Check out the latest updates and summer opportunities for DL programs from DPI [here](#).



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ENGLISH LEARNERS DEPARTMENT

🐦 @ellgcs

We love to know what is happening at your schools!

Please email your photos and events to @bartesc@gcsnc.com

📍 134 Franklin Boulevard, Green...

✉ bartesc@gcsnc.com

☎ 336-370-8982

🌐 gcsnc.com/Domain/2413