

English Learners Task Force

FACT SHEET

Improving academic achievement of English Learners

The Superintendent's English Learners Task Force was commissioned to more clearly define and articulate instructional programs for Fresno Unified's more than 20,000 English Learners.

Current status of English Learners

- English Learners are not making adequate progress in learning
- English, or in gaining proficiency in English Language Arts and Math.
- A majority of English Learners in FUSD are enrolled in Structured English Immersion or Mainstream programs.
- Most English Learners in FUSD (and the state) are born in the United States and not immigrants
- Many "long term" English Learners remain at the Intermediate level (as measured by California English Language Development Test) and do not accelerate to Early Advanced or Advanced levels.

Learning from experts

The Task Force has reached out to experts in the field to gain insight and guidance. The Task Force has learned from guest speakers such as Dr. Kenji Hakuta, Ph.D. from Stanford University, graduates and current FUSD EL students, and Dr. Kevin Feldman from Sonoma County Office of Education.

Next steps

Preparing to present their report to the Superintendent in April 2009, the Task Force will continue its work in gathering information through school visits, guest speakers, and data analysis.

At-a-Glance

Improving achievement of English Learners

- More than 20,000 English Learners in FUSD
- Long history of underperforming
- Achievement lags behind other students

Superintendent's English Learners Task Force

- Commissioned to clearly define and articulate instructional programs
- Recommendations designed to accelerate improvement of English Learners
- Scheduled to present recommendations in April 2009

Recommendations will include:

- Well articulated Structured English Immersion program
- Guaranteed, highly effective teaching practices
- Comprehensive and systematic professional learning
- Clear English Learners placement system
- Effective monitoring practices
- Clear guidelines for effective community engagement

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fresno Unified School District
Communications Office
2309 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 457-3733
www.fresno.k12.ca.us

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