

Ogden School District Support for Newcomers

Families

Administrative assistants and registrars are trained to welcome potential newcomer families during registration and refer them to a district liaison team that meets with the family within 48 hours for continued support. They find out the families needs, explain to them cultural differences within the US academic setting, and inform them of school and community resources. The families needs are then communicated to schools, enabling them to continue with ongoing support. For secondary students, the liaisons help facilitate conversations with the counselors. When there is a discrepancy of information regarding age or grade level placement, liaisons facilitate a conversation between families, LEAs, and district cultural specialists to determine what is best for the student(s). Liaisons continue to be available for families throughout the school year to help when families need additional support beyond what is provided at individual school sites.

District

OSD has a team of Cultural Linguistic Diversity (CLD) teacher specialists to help support all ML efforts, including newcomers. All OSD teachers are required to complete all or part of the Utah ESL Endorsement depending on their educational role, where they receive training that includes differentiating instruction for newcomers. During days designated for teacher professional development, teachers always have options aimed at specifically supporting newcomers. District training is provided for site-based instructional coaches and district content teacher specialists. Our CLD specialists meet with LEAs at the district and site level to support their newcomer needs and efforts.

OSD has a designated program for grades 3-12 that assists students with Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) and English literacy. Additionally, they are working on creating a website of support for all OSD staff with information on welcoming families, instructional practices, and developing the English language.

Families have the option to participate in a Spanish DLI program.

OSD provides translation support for families and staff through an internal Spanish translator and contracts with a company for other languages.

Site

Community School Coordinators (CSC) assigned to each school site help families with wrap-around services. Every site has an Alternative Language Services (ALS) Coordinator whose duties include ensuring that newcomer students have an Individualized Language Plan (ILP) that includes a plan for language development, sheltered instruction, and accommodations. Teachers are able to meet with the district CLD team or their site Instructional Coach for support. Students in K-9 grade have access to computer programs to assist in English development. Schools with the newcomer program have several aides that assist newcomers, particularly helping secondary students in core content classes.