

English Language Learning in the AMI Montessori Environment – Commitment to Inclusive Education

The AMI Montessori Method is designed to gather information about children through in-lesson and in-material assessment. This scientific method of education is also designed to provide the necessary and individual scaffolding to assist each child in reaching their developmental goals and achieving great strides.

The IMACS lead teachers, assistant teachers, administration, and support staff will participate in Professional Development which outlines and highlights implementation practices of the AMI Montessori Method aimed toward supporting the success of English Language Learners.

The AMI Montessori materials, prepared environment, and lessons are designed to incorporate a strong focus on academic vocabulary, culturally relevant, multi-sensory, language rich experiences that guide children towards critical thinking and analysis of the academic subject matter. Levine, Smallwood and Haynes, 2012, define these foundations within the AMI Montessori Method of education as “Five Principles of Instruction for English Language Learners”.

In planning and preparation for the Isthmus Montessori Academy Charter School opening in the fall of 2018 and after working in collaboration with MMSD; the following timeline has been developed to solidify the necessary and valuable cooperation of Special Education Staff and Staff supporting English Language Learners.

- **June 2017 – June 2018** – Recruitment and Staffing for Lead Montessori Guides, one BRT and .5 BRS
- **December 2017** – Lottery for Enrollment
 - In order to solidify staffing numbers identify children who will be enrolled through the lottery process who are already a part of the district who are English Language Learners
 - Survey families new to the district who will be enrolled through the lottery process to gather information about ELL status
- **January 2018** – Access Test Implemented for better planning purposes. Fall testing cycle resumes after the 1st year.
- **April 2018** – Information gathered from Lottery and Assessments to further guide staffing models
- **Summer 2018** – Professional Development Collaboration with IMACS staff and MMSD representatives with the purpose of a cohesive care and educational strategy for the school community as well as for each individual child.
 - This PD will include ELL information as well as best practices in the AMI Montessori Method of education
 - The PD will have the goal of inclusive education within the regular education classrooms and within the school community.
- **August 2018** – Whole IMACS Staff Orientation with AMI Montessori Method. Inclusion, and daily operations and procedures as focus

With the outlined projection for children who are English Language Learners, we expect the staffing to increase to one full-time BRT and to .5 BRS. This will be an increase from the projections within the proposal as the district recommended that this staff be separate from other responsibilities within the school community.

The BRT, and the part time BRS will work with the regular education teachers using constant and consistent communication in support of each child within the AMI Montessori framework. This cohesive strategy will aide in the support of the Montessori Method of education as it works to guide each child to reach their highest and unique potential.