

## Toms River Regional School District Model Program 2020-2022

### Toms River Regional School District, K-12, ESL Program

- Cedar Grove Elementary, Joseph A. Citta Elementary, North Dover Elementary, Pine Beach Elementary, Walnut Street Elementary, Intermediate North, High School North

### Dates when others can visit your program

Visitors welcome October - May. Please email Adrienne Gold to schedule a visit.

### Contact Person, Phone Number, Address, and E-mail

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### District and school demographics

Toms River Regional School District is the largest suburban school district in the state, with 18 schools, K-12. There are over 15,000 students, 24 home languages, and nearly 1,900 students reporting a home language other than English. In 2019-20, there were 275 English Language Learners, however that number has been growing by at least 10% each year.

### Short Description of the Program

The Toms River Regional School District's ESL program is designed using magnet, community based schools throughout the district. Five elementary schools, Cedar Grove Elementary, Joseph A. Citta Elementary, North Dover Elementary, Pine Beach Elementary, and Walnut Street Elementary, house our K-5 ELLs. Intermediate North is the magnet location for middle school ELLs, and our largest high school, High School North, is home to our high school ELLs. Students receive special transportation to these locations.

Toms River completes the NJDOE Bilingual Waiver each year, based on the number of Spanish speakers in the district, however other common languages are Urdu, Vietnamese, and Arabic. The Toms River ESL Program uses a combination of High Intensity ESL and Sheltered English Instruction (SEI). Currently, K-5 students receive a combination of pull-out/push-in ESL services, and are strategically placed with SEI trained classroom teachers who collaborate daily with the ESL teacher. Students at the intermediate school have an ESL/ELA course along with an ESL Academic Activity period of supplemental support. High School ELLs are taught in a high intensity model with an ESL/ELA period, ESL tutorial, and optional ESL study hall period. Sheltered English Instruction training and coaching continues for new and continuing cohorts of teachers each year.

Other noteworthy components of the program include:

- The Title III ESL Basic Skills Program: A Tier 2 intervention that was created to provide targeted intervention to ELLs K-8. Part-time, per diem teachers, provide support in small groups within the classroom setting, in addition to ESL service, and any other basic skills programs offered in the district.
- Newcomer Kits for classroom teachers that include visual supports, picture dictionaries, language supports for academic content areas, technology devices, etc.
- Standards-based ESL Curriculum, that tackles literacy and language through thematic units, guided by the WIDA Standards
- District-wide professional development to teachers, staff, and administrators
- Family events that allow students and parents to learn alongside each other and build community connections
- Growing independent libraries of diverse texts and literature that foster culturally responsive teaching and learning