# Tallmadge Curriculum

## Tallmadge City Schools
## Directional System

**OUR MANTRA**
Empower - Everyone, Every Day

**OUR VISION**
Tallmadge is a collaborative community that empowers every student.

**OUR MISSION**
Every Tallmadge graduate is successfully employed, enrolled or enlisted.

"A good teacher must be able to put himself in the place of those who find learning hard."

~Elphias Levi

## Authentic Learning: A Key to Engaging English Learners

Authentic learning connects classroom experiences to real-world applications, making learning more meaningful for students. For English learners, this approach provides opportunities to develop language skills in relevant, engaging contexts.

For example, rather than memorizing vocabulary lists, English Learners can engage in project-based learning, such as creating a podcast about their cultural traditions or collaborating on a community service project. These experiences allow students to practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in ways that feel natural and purposeful.

By integrating real-world scenarios and hands-on experiences, authentic learning helps English learners build confidence, deepen understanding, and stay engaged in their education.

## Personalized Learning: Meeting English Learners Where They Are

Personalized learning ensures that instruction is tailored to each student's needs, strengths, and interests. For English learners, this approach is crucial because it allows educators to scaffold instruction based on language proficiency while maintaining high expectations for learning.

Technology can play a role in personalization, offering adaptive language learning platforms and translation tools that support English Learners at their individual levels. However, personalization also comes from strong teacher-student relationships, where educators understand each student's background, interests, and goals.

By differentiating instruction, incorporating student choice, and leveraging culturally responsive teaching, personalized learning empowers English Learners to take ownership of their learning while developing essential language skills.

## State and District Assessment Windows

**MAP – District Testing Windows**
April 21-May 9

**TES Spring OST**
4/14 - 4th Grade ELA OST (Part I)
4/15 - 3rd & 5th Grade ELA OST (Part I)
4/16 - 4th Grade ELA OST (Part II)
4/17 - 3rd & 5th Grade ELA OST (Part II)
4/22 - 3rd & 5th Grade Math OST (Part I)
4/23 - 4th Grade Math OST (Part I)
4/24 - 3rd & 5th Grade Math OST (Part II)
4/25 - 4th Grade Math OST (Part II)
4/29-4/30 - 5th Grade Science OST

**TMS Spring OST**
   April 9-10 - ELA OST
   April 16-17 - Math OST
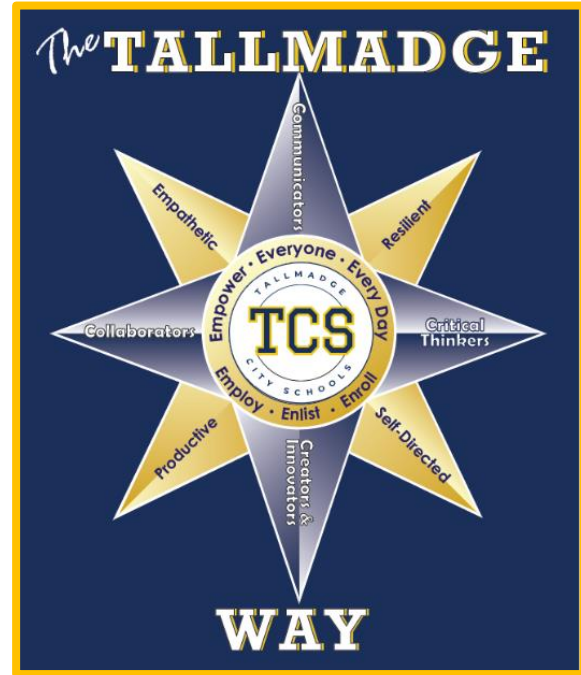   April 23-24 - Science OST

**THS Spring OST**
   April 17 - Biology
   April 22 - ELA II, Pt. 1 / Algebra, Pt. 1
   April 23 - ELA II, Pt. 2 / Algebra, Pt. 2
   April 24 - Geometry
   April 25 - American History / U.S. Govt

**AASCD**
February 24-April 18

**Empower Everyone, Every Day**

## Social Emotional Learning

Now more than ever, social-emotional learning is essential for supporting English learners in our classrooms. Many English Learners face unique challenges, such as adapting to a new culture, overcoming language barriers, and managing academic expectations—all while navigating the stress of current world events. SEL provides the foundation they need to feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

By integrating SEL into daily instruction, teachers can help ELs build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Here are specific, practical strategies to support English Learners' social-emotional development:

**Build Strong Relationships**
- Greet English Learners by name each day and learn about their backgrounds and interests.
- Use one-on-one check-ins or small group conversations to provide a safe space for sharing.

**Incorporate Visual SEL Supports**
- Use visual emotion charts and multilingual SEL posters to help English Learners identify and express their feelings.
- Model social cues and gestures to reinforce emotional expression and classroom norms.

**Create a Predictable and Safe Environment**
- Provide clear routines, schedules, and expectations with visual supports.
- Offer sentence stems (e.g., "I feel ___ because ___") to help English Learners participate in discussions about emotions.

**Encourage Peer Connections**
- Use buddy systems, small group activities, and collaborative projects to help ELs form friendships.
- Implement structured peer conversations with guided prompts to build social confidence.

**Integrate SEL into Academic Content**
- Read diverse stories that reflect English Learners' cultures and discuss themes of empathy and resilience.
- Use writing prompts that allow students to reflect on their emotions and personal experiences.

When English Learners' feel emotionally secure and connected to their school community, they are more likely to take risks, engage in learning, and develop language skills naturally. Prioritizing SEL not only supports their academic success but also empowers them to navigate challenges with confidence and resilience.

## The Tallmadge Way



The ***Tallmadge Way*** focuses on fostering a supportive, student-centered learning environment that promotes relationships, resilience, and real-world learning—all of which are essential for English learners to thrive. By applying these core values, Tallmadge educators can create an inclusive and empowering experience for English Learners.

### Relationships: Building a Strong Sense of Belonging

English Learners need to feel seen, heard, and valued in their school community. The Tallmadge Way emphasizes relationships first, ensuring that every student feels connected to teachers, peers, and the school. When English Learners build trust and meaningful relationships, they gain the confidence to take academic and linguistic risks.

### Resilience: Encouraging a Growth Mindset

Language learning takes time, and English Learners often experience frustration when they struggle to communicate. The Tallmadge Way teaches students to embrace challenges, persist through difficulties, and celebrate progress. By fostering a growth mindset, educators help English Learners develop the confidence and perseverance needed to succeed.

### Real-World Learning: Making Learning Authentic and Meaningful

The Tallmadge Way promotes authentic learning experiences that engage students in meaningful, hands-on work. English Learners thrive when they can connect learning to their own experiences and communities. When learning is relevant, interactive, and student-driven, English Learners are more likely to engage and develop language skills naturally.

## Authentic and Personalized Learning

### Using Authentic Learning to Build Language Proficiency

Authentic learning experiences provide English learners with natural language exposure, helping them develop their skills in meaningful ways. Instead of isolated grammar drills, English Learners benefit from experiences such as:

- **Service-learning projects** that require collaboration and communication.
- **Interviews and storytelling** activities that encourage speaking and listening.
- **STEM challenges** where students must read instructions, problem-solve, and present their findings.

These experiences immerse English Learners in the language while reinforcing academic content, fostering both language proficiency and a deeper understanding of subject matter.

### Personalized Learning and Student Voice for English Learners

Personalized learning places student voice and choice at the center, which is particularly beneficial for English learners. When English Learners have a say in their learning—such as choosing topics of interest, setting goals, or selecting how they demonstrate understanding—they are more motivated and engaged.

For example, a student interested in environmental science could research pollution in their community and present their findings in a format that aligns with their language strengths, whether through a visual infographic, a recorded presentation, or a written report.

By honoring student interests and providing flexible pathways for success, personalized learning helps English Learners develop language skills while fostering confidence and independence.

# Artificial Intelligence

## Practical Ways to Use AI to Support English Learners

As English Learners continue to grow in Tallmadge schools, artificial intelligence offers valuable tools to support language development while keeping students engaged in authentic, meaningful learning. Here are a few practical ways you can integrate AI into the classroom to help English Learners succeed:

**Instant Translation & Communication**
- Google Translate and Microsoft Translator can be used for quick translations to support comprehension while encouraging students to develop English skills.
- Teachers can use translation apps during small group instruction or when providing written directions to ensure English Learners understand key concepts.

**Speech-to-Text & Pronunciation Support**
- Tools like SpeechTexter and Voice Typing in Google Docs allow English Learners to practice speaking and see their words transcribed in real time, reinforcing pronunciation and grammar.
- Students can use YouGlish to hear native speakers pronounce words in different contexts.

**AI-Powered Writing Feedback**
- Grammarly and QuillBot offer instant writing feedback, helping students refine grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary without waiting for teacher review.
- Teachers can use these tools to support English Learners in writing assignments, providing additional scaffolding without overwhelming students.

**Adaptive Language Practice**
- Read&Write for Google Chrome provides text-to-speech, word prediction, and translation to help English Learners access grade-level content.
- AI-driven platforms like Duolingo for Schools allow students to practice English at their own pace with engaging, interactive activities.

**Interactive Learning & Engagement**
- AI chatbots, such as those in Microsoft Teams or Google Bard, can serve as conversation partners, allowing English Learners to practice writing and speaking in low-stress environments.
- Teachers can use EdPuzzle AI to create interactive videos with embedded comprehension checks, ensuring English Learners engage with content in a meaningful way.

By incorporating AI thoughtfully, we can provide English Learners with personalized language support, reduce barriers to learning, and create more inclusive classrooms. These tools should supplement, not replace, human interaction—allowing teachers to focus on relationship-building and authentic learning experiences that empower English Learners to thrive.

# English Learner Services

English Learner Family Toolkit

Interpreter Request Form

Website Information for EL Families

EL Newcomer Students Resources

# Gifted Programming

**High Quality Professional Development (HQPD) for Gifted Service in General Education Settings;**

Professional Development in Gifted Education

# Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

**Upcoming Trainings from Summit County ESC;**

Summit County ESC Professional Development

# Committee Meeting Schedule

- **EL Department Meeting** on Friday, March 7 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.

- **New Teacher Cohort** Observation Day on Tuesday, March 11 throughout the District.

- **Authentic Learning Local Coaches Training** on Thursday, March 13 from 8:30-11:00 a.m. in the Community Toom at THS.

- **Authentic Learning Steering Committee** Meeting on Thursday, March 13 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.

- **District Lead Teacher Meeting** on Thursday, March 13 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 230 at TMS.

- **District Staff Professional Development Day** on Friday, March 14 all day at the TES and TMS Campus.

- **Math Content Committee Meeting** on Thursday, March 20 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at THS.

- **LPDC Meeting** on Thursday, March 20 at 3:15 p.m. in the Conference Room at the MEC.