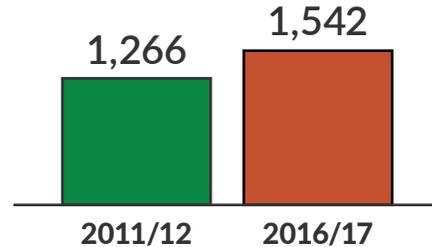


School climate can help English learner students improve speaking skills

Similar to many districts across the Midwest, the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD)** has experienced a growing K-12 English learner student population over the past few years.

The **number of English learner students in grades 3-8 in the district rose** from 1,266 in the 2011/12 school year to 1,542 in 2016/17.



The English learner student population in CMSD also is becoming more diverse.



The percentage of **English learner students in grades 3-8 who speak a language other than Spanish rose** from 18 percent in the 2011/12 school year to 29 percent in 2016/17.

CMSD is looking for more information to help meet the linguistic, cultural, and educational needs of its changing English learner student population.

CMSD uses the **Conditions for Learning survey** to understand **school climate across four domains:**



Safe and respectful climate



Peer social-emotional learning



Academic rigor



Supportive learning environment

To boost the district's efforts to support English learner students, CMSD is collaborating with **Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest** through the **Cleveland Partnership for English Learner Success**.

The partnership **conducted a study** to learn more about the climate of CMSD schools that English learner students attend and **how school climate might be associated with student achievement**.

REL Midwest and CMSD found that domains on the Conditions for Learning survey were associated with English learner students' speaking skills, listening skills, and English language arts achievement scores.

English learner students had better...	 Safe and respectful climate	 Peer social-emotional learning	 Academic rigor	 Supportive learning environment
English speaking skills at schools with more positive student perceptions across all four Conditions for Learning domains.	✓	✓	✓	✓
English listening skills at schools with more positive student perceptions of safe and respectful school climate.	✓			
English language arts achievement scores at schools with more positive student perceptions of academic rigor and supportive learning environment.			✓	✓

¹ The study also examined the relationship between Conditions for Learning domains and English learner students' math achievement scores on the Ohio state test. The study did not find any significant associations between any of the Conditions for Learning domains and math achievement scores.

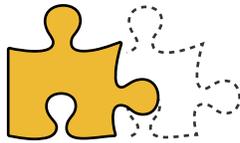
Takeaways to consider



This **study indicates that school climate is a promising area of focus** for supporting success for English learner students.



Schools and districts can consider whether **specific approaches to building a positive school climate may be particularly effective for supporting their English learner students.**



Parents of English learner students can **consider school climate when choosing the best school to support their children's needs.**