

Newcomer Learning Academy

Does The School District of Philadelphia provide transportation to NLA?

Students are provided a transpass for transportation if they qualify.

Where will my child attend school after successful completion of the Newcomer Learning Academy (NLA)?

The program is designed to last 6 months to 2 years depending on student progress. After that, students may attend their neighborhood high school, continue at Ben Franklin or attend a special-admission school if eligible.

What if my child has not attended school at all or has attended only a few years of school?

Students with limited schooling can be placed in a section of NLA in which the focus is strengthening students' literacy skills and filling gaps in knowledge and skills in mathematics, social studies, and science.

Will my child receive high school credit for the courses taken?

Your child can receive up to six high school credits for successful completion of the Newcomer Learning Academy (NLA).

What academic support is available for my child?

Academic support is provided for your child by the Newcomer Learning Academy teachers.

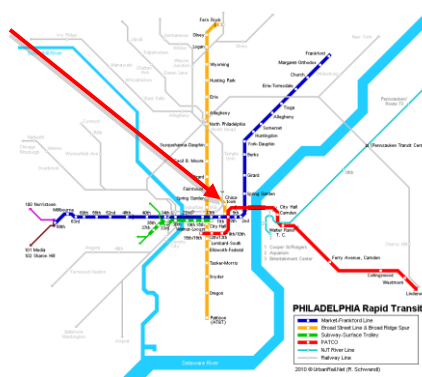
Will my child be able to participate in extra-curricular activities at the Newcomer Learning Academy (NLA)?

Yes, students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

- ***A safe and nurturing environment for high school-age beginning English Language Learners***

- **Location:
Benjamin Franklin High School
550 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

- ***Easily accessible by public transportation!***



The School District of Philadelphia
Office of Multilingual Curriculum and Programs
440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215-400-4240

The School District of Philadelphia



Newcomer Learning Academy at Benjamin Franklin High School

Gregory Hailey, Principal

Newcomer Learning Academy

The **Newcomer Learning Academy (NLA)** provides English Language Learners (ELLs) who have recently arrived in the U.S. an accelerated course of study that builds academic and social English in a nurturing school environment.

NLA Program Goals

- To recognize and build upon immigrant students' native cultures and linguistic backgrounds, as well as academic skills acquired in the home country
- To develop students' communication and literacy skills in English
- To identify and address gaps in content knowledge and skills
- To enable high school-aged ELLs to earn credits toward graduation
- To integrate students into the social climate of the school
- To ensure success by providing adequate support services



Program Overview

NLA offers a 6 to 24-month instructional program that prepares students to transition successfully into higher levels of the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program and into content-area classes required for graduation. Students in NLA will usually take two English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, one mathematics class (Algebra 1 or Pre—Algebra), one science class (Physical Science), and one social studies class (American History), along with an elective such as photography or physical education.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to enroll in the NLA, a student must:

- Be a recent immigrant to the United States (less than one year in the U.S.)
- Speak a language other than English (as indicated on the EH-40, the Home Language Survey)
- Score between 1.0-1.9 on the W-APT (the English language proficiency test)
- Be between the ages of 14-20



Instructional Program

In addition to explicit instruction in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in ESOL classes, language is also taught in the content courses using sheltered instruction techniques. These techniques are based on research into best practices for promoting academic literacy including:

- Hands-on activities
- Activities requiring students to apply knowledge of both content and language in all four language domains (reading, writing, listening and speaking)
- Ongoing feedback for students regarding language production in all classes, not just in ESOL
- Incorporation of students' life experiences and prior learning experiences
- Explicit instruction on common vocabulary and sentence patterns used in academic English
- Frequent opportunities to interact with fellow students, so that students can build their language skills through discussion and in-depth responses about concepts