



LEAP Mission Statement

The mission of the Learning English for Academic Proficiency (LEAP) program at Daystar Academy is to ensure that students gain the linguistic skills they need to be academically proficient, by providing research-validated, systematic, explicit, and sustained language instruction to Academic English Language Learners (AELLs), designed specifically to develop social, instructional, and academic language within the four language domains (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) and in conjunction with standards-based subject matter content.

LEAP Program Core Beliefs

- We believe that the mastery of academic English and the understanding of social and cultural norms allow for access, equity, and social action.
- We believe that all AELLs are capable of being held accountable to high standards when provided appropriate learning environments and materials, as well as highly qualified ESL/LEAP and core-content teachers.
- We believe that a language-focused curriculum, aligned to the WIDA English Language Development Standards and grade level core-content standards, enables AELLs students to become successful individuals in the mainstream classroom, overall school environment, and community at large.
- We believe that student progress can be increased by adapting instructional needs to each AELL's proficiency level and individual learning needs.
- We believe that effective learning for AELLs demands confirmation and respect of their linguistic advantages and cultural capital; therefore, we employ teaching practices and instructional strategies that affirm and build upon the language and culture of each child.
- We believe parents play an important part in enhancing their child's academic and linguistic performance through becoming active partners in their education.
- We believe that effective instruction depends on essential ongoing staff professional development in language acquisition, cultural awareness, and sheltering content for AELLs.

LEAP Program Goals

- To provide AELLs research-based instruction that leads to proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and understanding English in order to achieve academic success in an all English curriculum.
- To provide AELLs instruction that leads to the mastery of the Common Core State Standards in the areas of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies through research-based instructional practice and dual language immersion.
- To provide AELLs an educational environment that will enable them to maintain confidence and a positive identification with their cultural heritage and first language
- To provide parents of AELLs the opportunity to participate and support their child's educational experience and the opportunity to shape the district's English Language Learner program.
- To analyze student achievement annually and determine needed resources to ensure that AELLs were effectively served in LEAP and in their core content courses.