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What's going on inside the classroom?



Languages/Cultures Represented in our School

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools is the 48th largest school district in the country. Neighborhood schools, enhanced option, design center, professional development and magnet schools help meet our students' diverse learning needs. Our students represent more than 80 different countries and speak languages from more than 77 language groups.

STUDENT ETHNIC COMPOSITION (DISTRICT-WIDE):

Asian 2,808 3.68%
Black 36,215 47.45%
Hispanic 12,169 15.94%
Indian 107 0.14%
Pacific Island 82 0.11 %
White 24,948 32.68%

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL).....9,734 ...12.6%

Taken from <http://www.mnps.org/AssetFactory.aspx?did=39158>

Factors affecting ELLs

Learning Styles- refer to the approach by which the student learns. Several factors influence the way a student learns. The way students think about/ process information and connect it to prior information, also the student's motivation and attitude towards learning. Students all will have their own methods and strategies for approaching learning opportunities. When learning a second language sometimes there are deficiencies between the student's learning style and the teacher's instruction strategies. These differences can impact the success of language learning.

"Culture Shock"- involves acknowledgement that there are differences between the first and second language culture that affect the language learning process. Students may feel frustrated, angry, depressed, or dislocated. These feelings can cause students to withdrawal from the language learning process entirely.

Statement Verification- Second language learners tend to have difficulty understanding negative statements. When negative words, such as **not**, are in the middle of a sentence, it confuses the learner. This often results in a misinterpretation of the intending meaning.

Morphological Awareness- This is the knowledge and ability to pair sounds with meaning. An awareness of this process is not easy to achieve because ELL will focus more on "survival" words in L2. Morphemes and word combinations are structurally different in most languages; therefore, they are difficult to learn.