



# ACTION REPORT

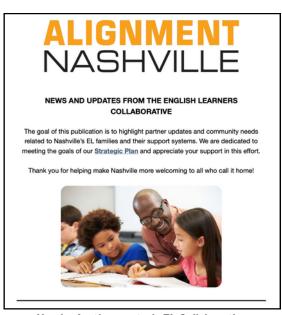
### ENGLISH LEARNERS COLLABORATIVE

**24 25** 

The purpose of the English Learners Collaborative (formerly known as the English Learners Advisory Board) is to strengthen the collaboration between the EL office and community partners serving our international families. Community partners have strong connections with families and students, and MNPS aims to leverage that connection to ensure that families know their rights, understand the resources and programs that are offered to them, and what kind of education and support their child is receiving in school. Community partners are also able to share the needs they are seeing in the communities they serve to inform the MNPS EL Office's programming and initiatives.

The primary focus of the 24–25 school year was aligning the Collaborative's efforts with the MNPS EL Department's newly established Five-Year Strategic Plan. The Collaborative prioritized four core goals:

- Fostering shared responsibility for EL education across all levels of MNPS staff
- Ensuring meaningful access to standardsaligned, language-integrated instruction
- Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that supports both academic and social-emotional growth
- Deepening family and community engagement



Header for the quarterly EL Collaborative
Newsletter, which the collaborative
uses to share community updates with one another



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#### 24-25 OUTCOMES

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Ongoing communication and collaboration between schools and community partners strengthens supports for international families.
- Collaborative members participated in a Vanderbilt University study that underscored the need for stronger coalition-building, candid dialogue, and community-driven solutions to overcome funding gaps, policy misalignment, and service silos.
- The fear and uncertainty of the current political climate is directly linked to increased levels of student absenteeism, even among EL families with lawful status or work authorization.

Throughout the year, the Collaborative structured its meetings to spotlight these goals, sharing updates, identifying challenges, and developing coordinated action steps. Representatives of relevant community initiatives and a Vanderbilt University Assistant Professor were invited to share resources and opportunities for collaboration.

In 2025, the English Learners Collaborative responded to a rapidly changing landscape marked by new immigration-related policies, increased community anxiety, and ongoing uncertainty around state and federal funding. These shifts created both immediate challenges and long-term implications for the organizations supporting English learners and their families.

In response to this crisis, the Collaborative took deliberate action to support its partners and the communities they serve. These efforts included gathering input from members through surveys and facilitated discussions to better understand emerging concerns, identify resource gaps, and uplift community-informed strategies. The Collaborative prioritized building trust, expanding access to essential services, and promoting the well-being of immigrant and refugee families through coordinated planning, shared data, and consistent communication. Collectively, these actions reinforced the Collaborative's role as a central hub for advocacy, strategic alignment, and responsive innovation in support of English learners across Nashville







Snapshots of programming held this year by EL Collaborative member organizations
From L to R: Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Hispanic Family Foundation,
Nashville International Center for Empowerment



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## LEADERSHIP & ROSTER

#### 24-25 LEADERSHIP

Vanessa Lazón (MNPS) Molly Hegwood (MNPS) Monica Reyna (MNPS)

#### 24-25 ALIGNMENT STAFF

Nathan Shulman (Alignment Nashville)

#### 24-25 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Muslim Advisory Council
Catholic Charities
Conexión Américas
EdTrust
Elmahaba Center
Hispanic Family Foundation
Legacy Mission Village
Mayor's Office—Education
MNPD Family Intervention Program
MNPS
Nashville Public Library
Nations Ministry Center

NICE (Nashville International
Center for Empowerment)
Oasis Center
PENCIL
Planned Parenthood of
Tennessee and North
Mississippi
Rolling Hills Community Church
Siloam Health
Tennessee Immigrant and
Refugee Rights Coalition
Urban Promises Nashville