

**To:** Harlem School District Board of Education  
Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent  
Josh Aurand, Chief School Business Official

**From:** Ana Luisa Dominguez, Director of Multicultural Education  
Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**RE:** Newsela

**Date:** October 30, 2024

Our multilingual learners-MLs (also known as English learners) population has increased drastically in the last few years. With this increase in population, teachers of MLs have the unique challenge of working to provide adequate differentiation and plan culturally relevant lessons to develop their language skills while also building their academic knowledge. Newsela offers best practices that teachers can use in their instruction that can help their MLs achieve success in all areas of their education by building background knowledge, connecting students' cultures, creating a welcoming environment, varying ways to show knowledge, addressing all learning styles, providing more scaffolds, offering texts in native languages, use graphic organizers, teach vocabulary.

Newsela can help English learners and immigrant students reach and exceed grade-level standards while promoting a greater sense of belonging.

- All nonfiction content is published at five reading levels, so each student can access content at the level that is right for them.
- Culturally responsive, current content comes from diverse sources and engages students of varied backgrounds more.
- Teachers can scaffold instruction with customizable writing prompts and annotations.
- Read-aloud mode for every article helps English learners with fluency and pronunciation.
- Additional supports for Spanish-speaking English learners include leveled Spanish content with formative assessments attached
- Power Words for Newsela ELA includes student-friendly definitions and helps English learners build Tier 2 vocabulary.

The estimated cost for Newsela is \$3,300 and will be funded through Title III Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) grant.

**Funding**

Title III LIEP	Supplemental Instructional Materials account	\$3,300
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