



Rosetta Stone Customer Spotlight:

JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Making English language learning a family affair

A district with a diverse student makeup

Located in the New Orleans metro area, the Jefferson Parish Public School System (JPPSS) is Louisiana's largest educational district with 48 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, 10 high schools and 14 mixed-grade schools. The 85 schools serve nearly 50,000 pre-K-12 students, who are roughly 40 percent African American, 27 percent Hispanic, 27 percent white, and 5 percent Asian. JPPSS seeks to foster the parish's best-educated generation by putting students at the heart of its work and taking steps to meet the needs of its diverse student population, which includes nearly 7,500 students with limited English proficiency.

A growing number of ESL students

In the last decade, JPPSS has seen a rising Hispanic enrollment rate and has welcomed a growing number of students with limited English proficiency, many whom migrated from Central America. Just eight years ago, 16 percent of JPPSS students were Hispanic and roughly 8 percent had limited English proficiency. For the 2017-18 school year, the district's overall Hispanic student population increased to nearly 30 percent, with roughly 15 percent of students classified as having limited English proficiency. In 12 individual JPPSS schools, Hispanic students comprised more than 50 percent of total enrollment. More than three in 10 learners had limited English proficiency in 15 district schools.

JPPSS leaders believe that all children deserve a high-quality education that develops their unique talents by building upon their individual strengths, and that academic success should not be determined by race or socioeconomic background. Therefore, the district was determined to meet the needs of its growing English as a Second Language (ESL) population. To help these students build their English proficiency and thrive in school, JPPSS knew additional language learning supports had to be implemented in a timely and well-planned manner.



Providing ESLs high-quality instruction

In order to ensure high-quality English language instruction for its ESL students, JPPSS developed a specialized program with the goal of helping students attain English proficiency, develop high levels of achievement in core academic subjects, and meet challenging state academic standards.

As part of this strategy, during the 2014-15 school year JPPSS partnered with Rosetta Stone to implement digital language learning and Lexia Reading® for its ESL students. Today, 700 ESL students in grades 3-12 at schools across the district use Rosetta Stone® English. Students are recommended to the program by their teachers after their English language skills are assessed. Those who need additional support are placed in the ESL program where they meet in small groups with ESL-certified teachers and bilingual para-professionals and use the program on a school computer or iPad. Students who have an internet-connected device at home, such as a smartphone or tablet, can also access the program remotely.

While older students enjoy the speech recognition feature that evaluates their pronunciation and provides feedback, younger ESL students in grades K-1 benefit from using Lexia Reading to help them learn to read and speak English. In just the first three months of the 2018-19 school year, the district's ESL students in grades 3-12 have spent more than 1,500 hours using the digital language program.

A two-generation approach to language learning

Recognizing the important role parents play in their children's education—from helping with homework to communicating with teachers—JPPSS knew offering ESL parents access to the same Rosetta Stone® program as their students was an integral key to success.

JPPSS offers the Rosetta Stone Community Solution to 2,500 district households in order to allow parents to experience the same English language program their children use in the classroom. Parents access the program using their personal computers, tablets, or phones at home, work, or a local library. Lessons span beginner to intermediate-level content.

By using the program, non-English-speaking parents can develop additional English language skills. That increases engagement at their children's schools and contributes to improved student achievement. This two-generation approach to addressing language barriers faced by entire families can strengthen connections across generations while building children's support networks. That allows students to focus on success in school.

"JPPSS's ESL program helps new English-language speakers and their families grow as citizens of the world. Whether it's by using the Community program or by attending an ESL family night or workshop, we're helping students and their parents become more involved in their school and community by addressing the language barrier head on."

Esther Perez-Zemmels, JPPSS ESL Teacher

Instruction informed by data

Teachers and students at JPPSS benefit from the comprehensive data provided by Rosetta Stone. ESL teachers use the data from each unit to track their students' progress, identify weaknesses, and customize lesson plans. For instance, if a student performs poorly on a grammar unit, the ESL teacher can reference the data to pinpoint problem areas—such as forming plural nouns or vocabulary limitations—and adjust their instruction to focus more on these trouble spots. Using the data this way helps to ensure students receive instruction catered to their specific needs. That helps them do their best in school.



About Jefferson Parish Public School System



Jefferson Parish Public Schools is a school district based in Harvey in unincorporated Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The district operates all district public schools in Jefferson Parish. Serving over 47,000 students, JPPS is the largest public school system in the state. Their vision is that JPPSS will foster the best-educated generation that the parish has ever seen. They are committed to raising academic achievement by raising the bar, putting students first, and making faster, wiser decisions that will help our district meet the needs of all students.

For more information on Jefferson Parish Public School System, visit www.jpschools.org.

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language and learning solutions for individuals, classrooms, and organizations.

Our scalable, interactive solutions have been used by over 12,000 businesses, 9,000 public sector organizations, and 22,000 education institutions worldwide, and by millions of learners in over 150 countries.