



The Right Solution at the Right Time: Engaging Emergent Bilingual Students in Tampa

When a K–8 charter school in Tampa, FL, needed a language learning solution for its younger ESOL, or emergent bilingual, students, it relied on Rosetta Stone® English. Find out how the program supported remote learning during the pandemic while improving students' language proficiency.

SITUATION AND CHALLENGE

In the Tampa area, Henderson Hammock Charter School has the largest population of emergent bilingual, or ESOL students, comprising roughly 500 of the school's 1,200 students. This population increases by 15–20 students every year, according to Rhaiza Sarkan-Del Toro, the ESOL resource teacher. She heads up the program, supported by two classroom aides. With so many students to manage in addition to other responsibilities, "we felt like we were lacking in terms of giving our students the support they need," says Rhaiza.

ASSESSMENT AND SOLUTION

While Henderson Hammock had tried other solutions, it needed a program designed specifically for ESOL students in grades K–6, who are the majority of the school's emergent bilingual population. "Many of our younger students were using a reading program without really comprehending what they were seeing," says Rhaiza. "We were also looking for a program that the students could use both at home and at school."

“If students don't like a program, they're not going to learn. They're just going to click through it and not really take it in. We needed a fun, engaging program geared specifically for our younger ESOL students.”

Rhaiza Sarkan-Del Toro, ESOL Resource Teacher,
Henderson Hammock Charter School

The school chose to implement Rosetta Stone English because it addressed both the language learning and academic needs of their youngest ESOL students. Rhaiza completed training on March 13, 2020. And then school was shut down.

Keeping emergent bilinguals engaged during remote learning

Empowering fully remote learning. When schools closed in March, “we really worried about reaching our ESOL students,” says Rhaiza. But Rosetta Stone English made it easier. Her students and parents loved it, routinely asking for more levels and lessons. Meanwhile, the Educator Platform allowed Rhaiza to track her students’ progress and identify those students in need of extra support.

Aligned with WIDA. Rosetta Stone English is aligned with language proficiency standards to support language acquisition for students at all proficiency bands. Henderson Hammock gives the WIDA test every year, so “finding a program that was aligned with that was an A-plus for us,” according to Rhaiza.

Offline lessons for additional instruction. The school’s students and educators benefited from the program’s offline lessons in addition to its online lessons. Rhaiza used these lessons—and built on them—for one-on-one and small-group Zoom classes to better engage students.

BENEFITS AND RESULTS

According to Rhaiza, the benefits of Rosetta Stone English are many, including:

- ✓ **Offering opportunities for speaking practice in a safe, nonjudgmental environment; giving students a boost in confidence; and increasing their participation during Zoom lessons**
- ✓ **Engaging students in academic conversations, including embedded grammar lessons that are essential for English language acquisition**
- ✓ **Incorporating a culturally responsive approach, with diverse characters that students identify with; these characters, says Rhaiza, make learning fun for students**
- ✓ **Enabling educators to track use and performance and to identify where students need the most help**
- ✓ **Providing educators with a way to keep administrators up to date on student progress through the Educator Platform**

“Rosetta Stone English was our primary learning tool for ESOL students during the period of fully remote learning. It really saved the day for us and will be a big part of our program next year.”

Rhaiza Sarkan-Del Toro, ESOL Resource Teacher, Henderson Hammock Charter School

Engage your emergent bilinguals with the right solution.

Contact a Rosetta Stone K–12 language learning consultant:

United States & Canada: 1 (800) 811-2755

Outside of the United States & Canada: +1 (540) 236-5052

rosettastone.com/k12/contact

ABOUT ROSETTA STONE

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language and learning solutions for individuals, classrooms, and entire 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. For more information, visit www.rosettastone.com.

©2020 Rosetta Stone Ltd. All rights reserved. Rosetta Stone and other names and marks used herein are the property of Rosetta Stone Ltd. and are used and/or registered in the United States and other countries. Some products, features, and options described may still be in development.