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Framingham Adult ESL *Plus*
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Framingham Adult ESL Plus Receives \$300,000 Grant, Supported By Carnegie Corporation of New York

Framingham, MA, 7/1/24 — Framingham Adult ESL Plus (FAESL+) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$300,000 grant, supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), to conduct a pilot in effective Adult ESL instruction. This grant will support and expand FAESL+'s newest class location in Milford, enhancing the organization's ability to offer critical services to a part of MetroWest with very few educational opportunities. The grant will enable FAESL+ to add seven more ESL classes, upgrade classroom technology, hire six new part-time staff members, and employ one full-time administrator.

For over 40 years, FAESL+ has been a cornerstone in the MetroWest immigrant community, helping non-native English speakers gain the language skills necessary to improve their employment opportunities, participate more fully in their communities, and achieve personal goals by providing free ESL, citizenship, and GED classes to adult learners. The expansion into Milford, which began in August 2023 with funding from The Cummings Foundation and the Massachusetts Department of Education, currently serves 80 adult students with free evening classes. This grant will allow the program to increase by 160% .

"Since opening in Milford, we have had the privilege of helping so many students learn and develop their English skills," said Noah Sullivan, Manager of Special Projects at FAESL+. "Initially, we had the resources to support 80 students, but on the first day of registration, over 300 community members showed up. It just goes to show that there is a huge need here for classes like ours, and we knew that we would need to expand if we wanted to accommodate that need. Thanks to the Carnegie Corporation, now we can."

With the recent, unprecedented wave of immigration into Massachusetts, which began in early 2023, the demand for adult ESL services in the Commonwealth continues to grow. Organizations like FAESL+ play a crucial role in providing education and access to social services to these newcomers.

"Education is the most powerful tool in empowering community members to reach their full potential," said Kevin O'Connor, Executive Director of FAESL+. "Our shared goal with the Carnegie Corporation is to help newcomers integrate their talents and energy into their communities. Some people might say that the American Dream is fading, but in our classes and the lives of our students, that dream is very much alive— you can feel it."

This announcement of Carnegie Corporation's foray into adult education comes just days after MassINC released its report, titled "Massachusetts Needs an Actionable Strategy to Expand ESOL Services," which was featured on [WGBH](#). Massachusetts is lucky to have private Foundations like the Carnegie Corporation, the Cummings Foundation, the Barr Foundation, and the Highland Street Foundation. Along with corporation foundations, such as Middlesex Bank, MutualOne, and EasternBank, these charitable groups invest millions in public education and culture in the Commonwealth.

Dr. O'Connor points out that public ESOL classes are an important tool for economic development. "The research is clear. Our students get better jobs, and make more money. The increased tax revenues pay for schools like ours with a 6% return on investment." FAESL has over 1,300 students but thousands more are hoping for a spot.

Potential students can enroll for the fall semester at the registration lottery, which will take place at Milford High School on August 29, 2024. For more information about Framingham Adult ESL Plus, please visit faesl.org.

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About Framingham Adult ESL Plus

Established in 1984, [FAESL Plus](#) provides education and support to those who want to make a successful transition into American society and develop the academic skills necessary to meet their goals. In the past 40 years, the school has grown to become the largest publicly-funded adult basic education program in New England. In addition to English classes, they offer a wide range of opportunities for every student, including classes in citizenship, adult basic education, and High School Equivalency. Their philosophy is to provide each student with the language skills necessary to

achieve personal success at home, at work, and in the community. The majority of funding is from state and federal grants. However, the program is still dependent on community and private donations, as well as fundraising to maintain services. The FAESL Plus program operates as a department of Framingham Public Schools and Milford Public Schools, which provides space for the classes. For news, updates, and announcements, follow Framingham Adult ESL Plus (@framinghamadultesl) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and (@FraminghamESL) on [Twitter](#).

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FAESL Students line up for a class activity



School Spirit Day, Spring 2024 at FAESL.



FAESL Students in Bob's Level 5 outside Fuller Middle School in Framingham



Dr O'Connor speaks at Graduation



FAESL Staff



FAESL Student in Class