



Hmong Language and Cultural Enrichment Program (HLCEP)

Why Sponsor HLCEP?

Addressing the Achievement Gaps for Hmong Students in MMSD

Founded in 2013, Hmong Language and Cultural Enrichment Program (HLCEP) is an intensive 6-week summer program that supports Hmong children to become productive citizens. The inception of HLCEP came about after the 2012 MMSD K-12 data showed that our Hmong students are falling far behind in reading and math. In reading, 93% of Hmong students read below grade level. In math, 74% of Hmong students perform math below grade level.

What kind of future workforce will we have if these children don't become productive citizens? HLCEP exists to address this question.

Nurturing and Preventing Cultural Identity Crisis

Our goals are achievable. In promoting our mission, we strive to create a safe and healthy learning environment for Hmong students to enhance students' academic skills and prepare them for college. Our goals are the following:

- Learn their roots (history and refugee experiences).
- Expose students to their culture and traditions.
- Learn their native language (written and oral).
- Expose children to Hmong college students - mentors.
- Have fun while instilling pride and confidence.

Investing in Our Children Today

Like others, we believe that the children are our future. Hmong parents want to ensure their children live up to their grandparents' sacrifices made during the Vietnam War so their grandchildren will have a better opportunity. Most importantly, parents want to see their children become an asset, not liability, to society. Therefore, investing in our children today is preparing for a stronger workforce and retirement system for all citizens tomorrow.

Benefits Students and Community Received

- *Since 2013, over **90 Hmong** elementary and middle school students participated in HLCEP.*
- *In the first year, on average, elementary students increased their knowledge of reading and writing in Hmong from 23% on their pretest to 67% on their posttest, an increase of 44%. Middle school students increased their knowledge from 42% on their pretest to 88% on their posttest, an increase of 46%. This average continues to increase!*
- *Field Trips – every year students increase their academic and language skills via field trips to the Wisconsin Discovery Center, Leopold Nature Center, and Kajsiab House.*
- *Each summer, an average of **30 students** met four Hmong professionals (military officers, doctors, nurses, dentists, and police officer) who came to speak about career opportunities within their fields.*
- *Completion Celebration: Each summer an average of **30 students perform more than 10 performances**—skits, songs, poem, and jokes—to showcase their new learned knowledge for their parents, families and friends at the final day Completion Celebration.*
- *An average of **10 students performed** at the past two Madison Hmong New Year at the Alliant Energy Center.*
- *Job Creation: Every summer, an average of **4-6 full-time staff** were employed at HLCEP.*
- *Volunteer Opportunities: Every summer, an average of **10-15 college and parents** have the opportunity to enhance their skills via volunteering at HLCEP.*
- *Over \$70,000 raised to make HLCEP available for over 90 students.*

“Teacher, if I sleep at school tonight (Thursday), Friday would never come and the camp would not end.”—a quote from a Hmong elementary student to his teacher

Thank you for your support!