



GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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PRESS RELEASE

GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES CARNEGIE GRANT

June 10, 2025 - Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) has been selected for a major national grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, one of the country's oldest and most influential philanthropic institutions.

GCPL will use the funds to expand English language classes, working in partnership with Gwinnett County Public Schools. It will increase the number of free English classes and recruit community volunteers (who pass background checks) to support English language learners. Stipends for volunteer English teachers and bus passes for program participants will be available.

Gwinnett County Public Library is one of just 11 libraries nationwide chosen through the **Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy** initiative, which aims to help public libraries expand access to adult literacy and college readiness programs.

Fluency in the English language is essential for everyone to participate in American society, culture, politics, and business. We are delighted that the Carnegie Corporation has recognized the importance of English language classes and libraries in general to maintain a literate and engaged citizenry," said Charles Pace, Executive Director of Gwinnett County Public Library. "Thanks to this generous award we will be able to better support the English language learner needs of the Gwinnett Community than ever before."

Carnegie has been one of the largest philanthropic funders of libraries, from the early construction of almost 1,700 libraries in the U.S. to helping establish the endowment of

the American Library Association, funding the nation's first graduate library school, and digitizing archival collections around the world.

"Andrew Carnegie believed libraries were ladders upon which anyone and everyone could rise, and that belief continues to guide us," said Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie. "At a time when trust in public institutions is fraying, libraries retain public trust. We are delighted to support these grantees as they provide essential programs and community services."

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