

FIEC FAQs



The leadership and staff of Faith International English Classes strive to model and communicate the love of Jesus Christ to speakers of other languages through quality English teaching and personal caring relationships.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Faith International English Classes:

Who runs your program?

Faith Church at 9125 North College Avenue (on the Corner of 91st Street and North College Avenue) in Indianapolis, Indiana supports and encourages our volunteer-staffed program. Our FIEC staff includes 65–75 classroom teachers, conversation facilitators, FIEC Kids teachers and helpers, administrators, and a security team. We have a leadership board that includes a part-time paid Director that meets monthly to cast vision, plan events, and advise / help implement weekly operations.

Is this a religious program?

FIEC does not use a religious curriculum. A Bible verse is shared and explained in each class (adults and children) each evening. Each person who works in the program must love Christ and is asked to sign a document of beliefs and share their faith story.

How long have you had an English program?

Faith started teaching immigrants and refugees English in 2005.

When do you hold classes?

Classes are every Tuesday night 7:00–9:00 PM, September through May. Free children's classes and childcare are also offered for the children of adult students during this time.

Do you accept students throughout the school year?

Registration normally closes when classes are full, but there may be an opening during the school year due to a student's changing work schedule or move to another area. Students are evaluated and placed in classes appropriate to their proficiency. Books are started in September and are studied consecutively throughout the school year. Students starting in the middle of the year will be starting in the middle of the book.

What is your current enrollment?

2017–18 enrollment was 150 adults and their children from 26 countries speaking more than 20 languages.

What is the cost?

The current one-time fee is \$40 in cash at registration. This covers the cost of books and materials. There is currently no cost for FIEC Kids. Students are encouraged to pay for two reasons: to take ownership of their studies and to “pay it forward” to enable more students to participate.

Do you offer childcare?

Yes, we offer free childcare for children (6 weeks to 13 years old) of students and staff ONLY. Younger children will follow a curriculum, have stories read, and play while those in school will have homework help, play educational games, and have help with literacy.

What classes are you offering and what curriculum do you use?

Our conversation-based classes offered each Tuesday evening use the *Stand Out!* Books and Picture Dictionary. Levels include:

- Basic – a men’s class and a women’s class – for those with no or very little English
- Level 1 – for those who function in a limited way in English, using present tense and often memorized phrases
- Level 2 – for those who are using and understanding present, past, and future tense as well as some progressive present or progressive past tense and know phrases and plurals, but are still limited in reading and conversational abilities at times
- Level 3 – for those who function reasonably well in work and social settings as long as things are routine because they can maintain a conversation in English, but need help with some of the nine verb tenses and writing more than one or two sentences
- Level 4 – for those who function well in most English-speaking situations, but are easily confused with idioms, problem solving in English, sequencing events, or answering higher level questions

How do students know what level class to attend?

A prospective student must fill out a registration form (could be with the help of a translator) and then take a short oral test. This test is curriculum-specific and tell us where the student should be placed.

Do students graduate from your program?

We do not graduate students. We award an official Certificate of Attendance at the end of the school year that includes the student’s name and the number of hours he/she attended. Students may be re-tested at the end of the year. Teachers and conversation facilitators recommend the student’s level for the next year.

What and when are your special events?

As a part of our classes, we host four special activity nights (for students only):

- School night in conjunction with the local schools to help students understand schooling in the US and learn how to better support their children and grandchildren;
- Shopping night to practice asking for items in a store, paying for items, making change, and also to practice colors, numbers, and the use of various adjectives and nouns needed in shopping;
- Emergencies night in conjunction with the local police and fire departments to learn about using 9-1-1, interacting with the police and firefighters, what to do if they have a wreck or a fire, and what to expect in emergency situations; and
- Health clinic night featuring medical personnel from Faith Church to help students fill out a health history form and learn what to expect when going to a doctor.

Two other special events are open to the family and friends of students and Faith Church attendees:

- Christmas program in mid-December
- Awards program in late May

What is your bad weather policy?

When the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township (MSDWT) schools are closed or cancelled, Faith International English Classes will be cancelled also. For snow starting late in the day, a decision will be made by 4:00 PM. Teachers and Conversation Facilitators will try to contact students by phone, text, or email. Students also have the phone numbers of their teacher and conversation facilitator. On the TV, see station WRTV 6 or WTHR 13 and look for Faith Church or Faith Missionary Church. You can also call 317-848-1541 and press 7 for the message or check the website.

How can I get in contact with someone regarding Faith International English Classes?

Currently Amy Mitchell is the Director of FIEC. Feel free to contact her with any additional questions or comments at amy@faithliveitout.org or 317-848-1541 ext. 244.