

ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

OVERVIEW

The English as a Second Language, or ESL program provides intensive instruction that develops oral and written comprehension and reading and writing skills in English. The ESL program uses the cultural and academic experience of the student as a platform to provide the appropriate instruction in English. The ESL program teaches mathematics, science, and social studies using strategies and methodologies appropriate for second language acquisition.

PURPOSE

The ESL program is designed to develop competence in English in students. It prepares students to be successful in all academic subjects.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Who should be enrolled in an ESL program?
 - Students from Pre-Kindergarten through High School who speak or hear a language other than English in their home or have difficulty in English are eligible.
- Will my child be taught the same subject matter and learn the same skills as other students?
 - Yes! All students in ESL must receive instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in English using strategies and methods appropriate for them.
 - Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are all integral parts of the program
 - Music, PE and art are also part of the balanced curriculum all students are required to receive.
- Who teaches the ESL program?
 - Specially trained teachers who are certified to teach in the ESL program in order to meet the special language needs of these students.
- How can parents help their child?
 - Parents can volunteer for help with classroom activities
 - Parents can encourage their child at home to achieve, provide a place to study and show interest in schoolwork.
 - Parents can ask their child's teacher or principal about becoming a member of the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) which helps determine how students will be taught.