

Where can I obtain additional information on ESL programs?

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Where can I obtain additional copies of this brochure?

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TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY
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ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAMS:



BENEFITS FOR YOUR CHILD!

Texas Education Agency

Austin, Texas

What is English as a Second Language?

English as a Second Language (ESL) is intensive English language instruction by teachers trained in recognizing and working with language differences.

State law requires school districts to provide ESL:

- in elementary schools when there are fewer than 20 Limited English Proficient (LEP) students of the same language enrolled in the same grade level in the district and;
- in middle schools and high schools with LEP student enrollment.

What is an ESL program?

- An ESL program provides intensive instruction in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending English.
- An ESL program uses the academic and cultural experience of the student as a platform to provide the appropriate instruction in English.
- An ESL program teaches language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies using strategies and methodologies appropriate for second language acquisition.

ALL CHILDREN SHOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN A WELL-BALANCED CURRICULUM

What is the purpose of an ESL program?

- An ESL program develops competence in English.
- An ESL program prepares the student to be successful in all academic subjects.

Who should be enrolled in an ESL program?

Students in prekindergarten through high school who speak or hear a language other than English in their home and who have difficulty in English are eligible.

Will my child be taught the same subjects and learn the same skills as students in the regular program?

- All students in ESL must receive instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in English using strategies and methodologies appropriate for them.
- Language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies are integral parts of the state mandated curriculum.
- Music, physical education, health and art are all parts of the balanced curriculum that children in the program are required to receive.

Who is responsible for teaching in an ESL program?

Teachers must be specially trained and certified to teach in ESL programs and meet the special language needs of these students.

How is an ESL program different from English language arts instruction?

- Teachers are appropriately certified by the state to teach ESL.
- State-adopted ESL materials are provided to help students learn through proven methods.
- Instruction focuses on learning English for effective participation in other classes.

How can parents become involved in the ESL program?

- Parent approval is required for students to participate in the program.
- Parents can volunteer for 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) that determines how students will be taught.