

ESOL
(**E**nglish for **S**peakers of **O**ther **L**anguages)
Program
in Greenwood District 50

2014-2015
Questions and Answers

Q: Why do we need to know about ESOL?

- ▶ Gwd 50 has over 1,000 ESOL students; each school has ESOL students.
- ▶ ESOL is a federal program under Title III legislation.
- ▶ Court rulings:
 - A. LAU vs. NICHOLS – **accommodations for ELLs must be made** <http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/faqs/view/6>
 - B. PLYLER vs. DOE – **equal access to schools regardless of immigrant status**

http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/US_SC_CR_0457_0202_ZS.html

Q: Who provides English instruction to ESOL students?

- ▶ Each school has a staff member designated as an ESOL contact. *(Please take time to learn who that person is.)*
- ▶ All content area teachers are also language teachers. Language learning happens in every classroom!
- ▶ Students who need additional help beyond the primary instructor will receive supplemental instructional time with ESOL trained teachers whenever possible.

Q: How are ESOL students identified?

- ▶ **Home Language Surveys** are given to all students upon enrollment. (A white copy must be on file in the permanent record.)
- ▶ Students whose parents indicate English was not the first language the student learned to speak will be assessed by the ESOL teacher. Parents are notified if their child qualifies for ESOL services.
- ▶ *We do not use race or ethnicity to identify ESOL students.*

Q: How are ESOL services determined?

- ▶ An ELL Committee should be created at each school to review potential ESOL student information.
- The committee should consist of the ESOL school contact (administrator), regular classroom teacher(s), and other instructional support personnel, if applicable.
- ▶ ELL Plan/Accommodation Form should be developed by the ELL committee.
- The mainstream teacher will schedule meetings with parents to discuss the ELL Plan.
- (Record the meeting in the ESOL student's electronic file (Enrich) after fall conference)

Q: What is the ELL plan (Accommodation Form)?

NEW Accommodation forms will be filled out electronically this year.

Accommodation form must:

- Identify types of support services to be implemented.
- Identify types of accommodations needed for classroom success.
- **Specify test accommodations for classroom and standardized test settings.**
- **ELL Plan/Accommodation Form must be filled out by ALL content area teachers of ESOL students.**

Teachers must have accommodations in place in their classrooms within 2 weeks of the beginning of the class and have them recorded in the lesson plans on Oncourse. This is a FEDERAL requirement. ESOL students cannot be failed if accommodations are not provided to meet the burden of learning a new language.

Q: What is the ELL plan (Accommodation Form)?

Please remember that accommodations are there to help ELLs with acquiring content knowledge in your classroom.

Refer to WIDA Can Do Descriptors as you accommodate work for your ESOL students.

http://wida.us/standards/CAN_DOs/index.aspx

WIDA ESOL standards & “CAN DO” descriptors

***NEW * this year:**

- ▶ Our state has adopted new ESOL standards for ESOL students- WIDA standards.
- ▶ ALL teachers of ESOL students will have to implement WIDA standards in daily lessons this year. Check www.wida.us for more information
- ▶ Along with WIDA standards, we will have “CAN DO” descriptors for ESOL students based on their proficiency level. Ask your ESOL teacher about them when you’re working on the accommodation plans for your students.


Q: What grades do I assign ESOL students?

- ▶ Grading should be based upon appropriate instructional accommodations.
- ▶ Failing grades should not be assigned in a content area on the basis of the lack of English proficiency.
- ▶ If an ESOL student is failing your class due to a lack of language, you need to add more accommodations. Please document accommodated tests & assignments!

Q: Should we retain ESOL students?

- ▶ English Language Learners should not be retained in a grade solely based on a lack of proficiency of the English language.
- ▶ Recommendations for retention should be made only after careful consideration of all available information on the child.
- ▶ A special form must be filled out. It must include documentations of accommodations and interventions. Document accommodated work you have been providing for this student during your class.

Q: Can ESOL students be referred to Programs for Exceptional Students?

- ▶ English Language Learners should be monitored closely to determine if special education services are needed.
 - ▶ **An ESOL teacher must be present for IEP meetings when placement for ESOL students is discussed.**
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REMEMBER TO DOCUMENT:

- Lesson Plans must document accommodations (OnCourse);
- Document awards, sport and club participation,
- Meetings with parents,
- Collaboration with ESOL teacher/ESOL school contact,
- Participation in RTI initiatives,
- SIT Team Meetings,
- ESOL Services outside of the classroom,
- Copies of parent communications,
- School-wide Plans for ELL parent involvement.

Do you have the accommodation plan in a location that you can easily access and use for instructional purposes?

End of Module

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Training Page