

## **WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ESL?**

### **HOW LONG WILL MY CHILDREN TAKE ESL CLASSES?**

Many factors affect how long it takes children to learn English well enough to compete in the mainstream classroom. One factor is the age of the students when they start to learn English; another factor is the type of education they received in their home country. Research shows that social language takes from one to three years to acquire. Academic language (which is our focus) takes from seven to ten years. We constantly evaluate to make sure that we are providing appropriate service.

### **WHAT ROLE CAN PARENTS PLAY IN ESL?**

Parents can help their children learn by reading to them in their first language or in English, and by taking them places where they can learn—such as nature centers, museums, and libraries. Parents should communicate with their children in their first language if that is the one they are most comfortable with.

#### **The ESL teachers:**

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OR

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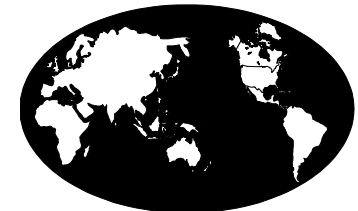
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# **ESL**

**District 621  
Mounds View Schools**

**English  
as a  
Second Language**



## WHAT IS ESL?

ESL means English as a Second Language. ESL is a program that provides instruction in language arts and other subjects for children whose first language is not English. The purpose of the ESL programs is to bring children's English language skill to a level where they can do well in the mainstream classroom. ESL is available at all schools within our district.

## HOW ARE CHILDREN SELECTED FOR ESL?

Parents fill out a Home Language Questionnaire when their children register for school. If languages other than English are checked, and if the parent has not refused ESL services, an ESL teacher will test to see if the children will need English language instruction. A Parental Notification Form will be sent home if your children qualify for ESL services.

## WHERE DO ESL STUDENTS RECEIVE SERVICES?

### Elementary and Middle School students (K-8):

Receive services at home school

### High School Students (9-12):

Receive service at Pike Lake Education Center—students are bused daily

## HOW OFTEN DO ESL STUDENTS RECEIVE ESL SERVICES?

Service depends upon age and previous experience with English. The following is typical, but exceptions are made as needed:

### Kindergarten

Five times per week, 20 minute sessions, pullout program in a small group with other ELLs

### Grades 1-5

Five times per week, 30-50 minute sessions, grouped with other ELLs and students with similar needs

### Grades 6-8

- ESL Language Arts, one class period, 5 times per week;
- Additional academic support available for Edgewood and Highview students

### Grades 9-12

- ESL Language Arts, one class period, 5 times per week;
- ESL Social Studies, one class period, 5 times per week;
- Additional academic support available for both high schools

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING ELEMENTARY ESL SESSIONS?

ESL students meet in small groups with a paraprofessional. Our program covers grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Because our classes are small we are able to teach to the needs of individual students. Our classes are educational, interesting, and fun for the students.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL ESL CLASSES?

ESL students meet in classes with students who are at or near their level of learning English. The ESL program offers classes in language arts. These classes focus on developing English skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students in these classes receive credit and grades in ESL. They are expected to complete homework and study for tests.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING HIGH SCHOOL ESL CLASSES?

ESL students meet in classes with students who are at or near their level of learning English. The ESL program offers classes in language arts and social studies. These classes focus on developing English skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking, as well as instruction in study skills and in the social studies content area. Students in these classes receive credit and grades in ESL. They are expected to complete homework and study for tests.