

What is ESL?

ESL means English as a second language and ELL refers to English language learners. ESL is an academic program that provides supplemental language arts instruction for children whose first language is not English. The purpose of the ESL program is to improve children's English language skills to a level where they can succeed in their mainstream classrooms. ESL programs are available at all schools within our district.



How does the District identify children for ESL services?

All parents complete a Home Language Questionnaire as part of the school registration process. If the parent indicates a language other than English is spoken in the home, our ESL teachers will assess the children to see if they qualify for English language instruction. The district will send a Parental Notification Form to your home if your children qualify for ESL services.

Who can answer my questions about ESL services?

You may call the ESL office at 651-748-7593.

Spanish / Espanol: Si quiere más información en ESPAÑOL acerca de este documento o de cualquier otro asunto relacionado con la escuela de su hijo(a), por favor, llame al (651) 748-7021.

Hmong / Hmoob: Yog koj xaav tau ibtug Hmoob txhais lug, thov hu rua tug xuvtooj (651) 748-7019.

Somali / Soomaali: Hadii aad dooneysid turjubaan Soomaali, fadlan soo wac (651) 748-7022.

Vietnamese / Tieng Viet: Neu quý vi cần thông dịch viên tiếng Viet, xin gọi số điện thoại (651) 748-7574.

District 622 Special Services offers programs and services in the following areas:

- English as a Second Language
- Chemical Health/Violence Prevention
- Special Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Health Services
- Homebound Services

For more information on programs and services offered by District 622 Special Services, call 651-748-7450

Independent School District 622
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale
2520 East 12th Avenue
North St. Paul, Minnesota 55109
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English as a Second Language



Grades K-12

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What happens during ESL sessions?

English as a Second Language students meet in small groups with a teacher or an education assistant. The ESL program covers grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. We keep classes small so we are able to address the language needs of individual students. Our classes are educational, interesting, and fun for our students.



How often do students receive ESL services?

English as a Second Language services vary according to a student's age, previous experience with English and current English language needs. The following schedule is typical, but exceptions are made as needed:

Grades K - 5

Students in grades kindergarten through fifth receive focused English language instruction daily for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Grades 6-12 ACCESS Program

Students in grades 6-12 receive daily instruction in language arts and study hall. Beginners to high intermediate level students are bused to ESL Centers for ESL instruction.

How long will my children need to take ESL classes?

Our teachers consider several factors when determining how long children receive ESL classes.

One factor considered is the age of the students when they begin to learn English. The level of education children received in their home country is also analyzed. Current grades and standardized test results are also very important.

Research shows that **social** English language proficiency takes from one to three years to acquire. However, **academic** English language fluency, which is our focus in ESL, takes from five to 10 years to acquire, and sometimes even longer.

Our goal is to make sure children become proficient enough in English to succeed in the mainstream classroom.

How do we know if children are making progress?

Together with classroom teachers, our ESL teachers and education assistants constantly monitor students' progress in reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Additionally, English language learners are assessed annually via the Minnesota Test of Emerging Academic English (TEAE) and other required assessments.

Parents can help children learn English and be successful in ESL and school

Children who are able to listen, speak, read and write well in their first language are able to learn English more easily.

Your children don't need to stop using and learning their first language in order to learn English.

You can teach your children many important things at home in your first language that will help them do better in school.

If you are proud of your own language and culture it will help your children. They – and you, too – can be successful in more than one language and cultural setting. Being able to communicate in more than one language is an admirable skill.

Talk to your children, tell them stories, teach them to express their thoughts and feelings in their first language. Encourage other members of your family to do the same.

Read or tell stories to your children in your first language. It is also important for your children to see you reading for pleasure, for work, and to learn useful information in any language that you can.

Extra-curricular and after-school activities may not seem like serious academic study; however, they are excellent opportunities for your children to practice and improve their English skills. Sports, music, drama, and school clubs are valuable ways for your children to speak English with children of their own age both in school and outside of school.

Remember, children who are able to listen, speak, read and write in their first language will learn these things more easily in English.