

Frequently Asked Questions about ESOL for Administrators

2018-2019

What is ESOL? ESOL is an acronym for the *English to Speakers of Other Languages* program. The ESOL Program of the Bibb County School District offers transitional language instruction to any student who is identified as an English Learner (EL).

What is an EL student? An EL, or English Learner, is a student who (1) has a primary or home language other than English and (2) meets Ga DOE's eligibility criteria for language assistance services.

How are ELs identified? Under federal law, all students in grades K-12 who have a primary or home language other than English must be identified and potentially eligible students must be screened for language assistance. When any student enrolls in a Bibb County school, the Home Language Survey (HLS) must be administered as part of the enrollment process. The following three questions appear on the HLS: **(1)** Which language does your child best understand and speak? **(2)** Which language does your child most frequently speak at home? **(3)** Which language do adults in your home most frequently use when speaking with your child? In order to ensure that responses given on the HLS are accurate and legally binding, districts should make every attempt to administer this document in the home language of the caregiver.

If a parent/guardian lists any language other than English on the registration form, your school's registrar or clerk should contact an ESOL teacher. An ESOL teacher will review available school records and/or screen the student's English proficiency using the W-APT or the WIDA Screener. **Registrars and data clerks are critical to the timely identification of English Learners.** Each principal is expected to maintain a list of the school's PHLOTE (primary or home language other than English) students.

Why is a student screened for ESOL services? When a language minority student enrolls in a Bibb County school after the first month of school, federal and state regulations require that he/she be interviewed or screened for English language proficiency within ten days of registration. *... "Under State Board of Education Rule 160-4-5.02, all students, whose parents have indicated on a Home Language Survey that a language other than English is spoken in the home or by the student, must take an English language proficiency test to determine eligibility for the ESOL Program or alternative placement for language assistance."*

When are parents and students notified of eligibility? At the beginning of each school year, ESOL Teachers have thirty days to complete the assessment, identification, and parental notification of newly enrolled students' eligibility for language assistance. This year's deadline is **August 30, 2018**.

How are Immigrant students identified? A student who was born outside of the United States and who has been enrolled in an American school for less than a period of three years is identified as an Immigrant student. These students are reported to the GA DOE as Title III Immigrant students when your school's data clerk or registrar (1) enters the student's birth country; (2) enters the date the student entered a US School; and (3) checks a field in the enrollment tab of Infinite Campus indicating that the student has been enrolled in an American school for less than three years.

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What is the difference between ESOL and Title III? ESOL is a state-funded instructional program for eligible English Learners (ELs) in grades K – 12. Title III is a federally funded program that provides eligible Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with sub grants to supplement those ESOL services already in place. However, both ESOL and Title III hold students accountable for progress in English language proficiency and evidence of attainment of English proficiency.

How does one request interpreting services or translations for parents? “Parents who are not proficient in English are to be provided with appropriate and sufficient information about all school activities that are called to the attention of other parents” ... Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI.

Following the spirit of this decree, the BCSD provides Spanish translations of enrollment paperwork, Rtl Parent Notification Letters, the Kindergarten Handbook, the student Emergency Card, the Nurse Consent Form, and the Code of Conduct.

The BCSD promotes parental involvement by providing interpreters for parents with limited English proficiency. Interpreters can be requested for parent-teacher meetings and school-wide meetings by emailing District.Interpreter@bcsdk12.net. **Principals should budget funds to provide interpreters at their school’s Title I events.** Before School Messenger calls are placed, principals can arrange to have their message translated and request that an interpreter call Spanish-speaking or Gujarati-speaking households. A week’s notice is requested for routine, non-emergency calls.

For assistance, please contact:

ESOL/TITLE III DIRECTOR	LEAD TEACHERS	LEAD INTERPRETER	BILINGUAL FAMILY COORDINATOR
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