



Shelby County Schools ESL Department

“Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners, Collaborating with Regular Classroom Teachers and Supporting The Local ESL Parents”

Program Information

Terminology:

- ESL - English as a Second Language
- NELB - Non-English language background
- ELL - English Language Learners
- LEP - Limited English Proficient
- FEP - Fluent English Proficient

Student Identification:

- Students are identified at the local area schools through review of home language surveys, ESL referral forms, and teacher recommendations.
- Once students are referred, they are assessed on the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA).
- This test determines qualifications in the ESL program in Shelby County Schools.

Service Delivery Model and Instruction:

- Shelby County Schools English As A Second Language Program offers service in the form of a pull out program as approved by the State of Tennessee.
- English Language Learners are pulled from their regular classes to receive ESL service.
- The state requires daily service or the equivalent.
- Services include direct pull out service, collaboration with the classroom teacher, and resource support and sharing.
- Services are provided to the student based on student’s language level, literacy needs, and teacher recommendations.

Grading:

- The Shelby County Schools ESL Program is a non-graded program.
- English Language Learners receive grades in the regular classroom from the regular classroom teacher.

ESL Teachers/Staff:

- All English Language Learners in Shelby County Schools receive services under the direction of a certified ESL teacher as determined by the State of Tennessee.
- Many staff members are responsible for serving more than one school within the district.
- These ESL teachers collaborate with regular classroom teachers to determine the best and most rapid path to academic success for all English Language Learners.

Regular Classroom Teacher Training:

- All regular classroom teachers in Shelby County Schools have access to ESL workshops and training at least 6 times per year.
- Modifications and cultural ideas are shared within this workshop for regular classroom teachers to use.

ESL Parent Conferences:

- Parent conferences are held for parents one time each semester.
- At these parent conferences, ESL parents visit and meet with regular classroom teachers/ESL teachers during this time.
- At these meetings, homework tips information, bilingual health care information, and other pertinent school information is shared.
- Parents are allowed computer and e-mail access at these meetings also.
- Shelby County Schools also features the Transact Translation Library.
- This library has translations in over 23 different languages of commonly used school forms to help meet language barriers with parents across the district.

Resource/Parent Internet Use:

- Shelby County Schools also has an ESL Resource Web site that is available to all students, teachers and parents across the district.
- Many practice activities are listed for students to have for home/local library use.
- There is also a help section for parents of different language backgrounds to use.

English As A Second Language Chain of Success:

- Proper Student Identification + Direct Instruction + Web Resources + Involved Parents = Successful English Language Learners