



Shelby County Schools ESL Department

Program Description and Information/OCR Compliance

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

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.
- Once students are referred, they are assessed on the State Language Assessment.
- 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 in elementary and middle school. High schools offer ESL courses.
- The state determines service times depending on the ELDA.
- 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.
- Interpreters and translated documents are available when needed.

Transition and Exiting:

- After students score a composite 4 or above on the ELDA (in addition to a 4 on the reading subtest), students are moved to the T1 status (first year) and T2 status (second year). After the student leaves the ELL status, this is considered exit. If students are struggling with academics in the regular classroom during the T1 and T2 status, these students can always be pulled back into ELL status.

Student Monitoring:

- ELL students are monitored for two years after meeting exit criteria. These two years are considered transitional years to ensure grade level success. In the first monitoring year the ELL student is classified as T1 (Transitional 1), and in the second monitoring year the student is classified as T2 (Transitional 2). These two additional years allow for the student to be counted as ELL for district reporting. If indications arise that the T1 or T2 student is not successful in the regular classroom, additional ESL support services are offered if it is determined that the lack of success is the result of language proficiency. Support services could be limited to assistance in a specific content area, or the student could re-enter the ESL program for direct instructional services, if necessary.

Program Evaluation:

- Home Language Surveys are completed on each new student to the district and filed in the cumulative folder.
- The district has a current list of all NELB students, their home languages, and their grade levels.
- Each school within the district has a current list of limited English proficient students, grade levels, and English proficiency levels.
- All schools within the district provide alternative language services in the least segregated manner as possible and with comparable facilities and materials as non-LEP students.
- Each school provides LEP students with meaningful access to the content in mainstream classrooms.
- Incoming new students are given the state assessment test upon enrollment to determine language status.
- The State Language Assessment is given each year to all LEP students in the district.
- Each school has an assigned ESL teacher and an assistant principal assigned to ESL.
- Cultural diversity workshops are offered each year in Shelby County Schools.
- Modification and training workshops are offered yearly to all Shelby County School employees.
- The district has an ESL web site that is accessible on the World Wide Web.
- District forms are available in different languages to address community needs.
- The district also has completed ESL Quick Assess Guides for regular classroom teachers.
- School opening alerts are distributed to all schools yearly.

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

Shelby County Schools offers educational opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or disability

