

Diamond Elementary School ESOL Program

What does ESOL mean? ESOL stands for: **E**nglish for **S**peakers of **O**ther **L**anguages

Our ESOL program serves approximately 170 students who come from a variety of countries and language backgrounds and speak many different languages.

Students are taught in small groups, at different levels, to speak, listen, read, and write in English and acquire academic language.

Our Mission: “To promote the effective instruction of all English language learners across the curriculum to enable them to acquire the social and academic English needed to achieve in all content areas, K through 5th grades.”

ESOL Curriculum

The Elementary Integrated Curriculum (EIC) is used to ensure that critical thinking skills and content are unified across all subject areas. World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Standards are also being utilized within the ESOL program to align the curriculum with the more rigorous national standards. The curriculum is designed so that students develop and practice English as they listen to, discuss, read, and write about grade-appropriate academic content.

Scheduling

Our program does a combination of pull-out and plug-in depending on scheduling. The amount of time that they are taken out into small groups depends upon their level of proficiency. The ESOL teachers work closely with the classroom teachers to ensure that students are not missing math or reading instruction.

Placement Testing

As a result of the "No Child Left Behind" Act, the State of Maryland requires schools to administer an English language proficiency test to any new student that lives in a home where another language is spoken. Therefore, within the first thirty days of the school year these students will be tested. **Parents and guardians will only be contacted if their child qualifies for ESOL services.**

What are the ESOL levels and how are they determined?

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Entering	Beginning	Developing	Expanding	Bridging	Reaching

These levels describe the spectrum of a learner's progression from knowing little to no English to acquiring the English skills necessary to be successful in an English-only mainstream classroom without extra support.

WIDA ACCESS Testing

The Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) is the standardized test that is used for ESOL placement and progress in the state of Maryland. When a student enters a MCPS school for the first time, they are given the placement version of the test. Each winter, all students identified as ESOL students take the ACCESS for ELLs to check their progress in acquiring English. They are assessed in four areas: **reading, writing, listening, and speaking**. These are the same skill areas that are addressed during ESOL instruction throughout the year. *Their results are shared at the end of the school year.*

How long do students stay in ESOL?

Every year all ESOL students take the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs to determine their progression in English language skills.

If a student scores well on this assessment, he/she is exited from the ESOL program. How long the student stays in ESOL depends on his/her progress in English.

Strategies

Since parents are their children's first and most important teachers, there are strategies that parents can use at home which will help their children do better in school. The stronger a student's language skills are in their first language, the easier it is for them to learn a new language. Therefore, continue to speak the native language at home. It is always good to read with your child in any language and ask them questions about what they have read.