

# **Title III Limited English Proficiency Students**

## **Welcome English Language Learners Families!**

The Geneva Area City School District's English as a Second Language (ESL) program helps students assimilate to their new language, culture, and community. Through the ESL program, students learn insightful skills that help them to succeed in learning how to speak, read, and write in their new second language. The District's ESL program provides students the necessary skills to succeed academically and is in accordance with Federal and State mandated requirements. Each English Language Learner (ELL) is assigned to a regular classroom where both the regular classroom teacher and Teacher of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) work together to modify curriculum as needed. The TESOL teacher will provide additional services in a pull-out program.

## **Who qualifies for English as a Second Language service?**

Students who do not demonstrate the necessary language skills as measured by district approved Language Proficiency Assessments and "Any individual who:

- Is between the ages of 3 and 21;
- Is enrolled in an elementary or secondary school;
- Has a language other than English as the native/home language, whether born in the United States or another country; and has such difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding English that the student may be unable to perform well enough in class or on state tests to meet state expected standards for achievement" (Ohio Department of Education)."

## **How are Students Identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP)?**

In accordance with No Child Left Behind, any student enrolled in Geneva Area City Schools must fill out a Home Language Survey as part of the enrollment process. If another language other than English is indicated on the survey, we are required by law to assess the students English language proficiency.

A district and state approved language assessment is used by highly-qualified personnel to then identify a student's level of English language proficiency within 14 days of enrollment. The student's proficiency level determines if he or she qualifies for service.

## **Parent Involvement**

ESL staff has several opportunities throughout the school year to meet with parents. They can include but are not limited to:

- Open Houses and School Orientations
- Title I meetings scheduled at buildings and in August, just before school begins
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Parent Portal real-time on-line grade book

ESL teacher is available to meet with parents throughout the school year upon request.

### **Interpretation and Translation Services**

In order to effectively communicate with LEP parents, staff will in a timely manner obtain qualified language assistance, which includes the use of interpreters when staff receive or make phone calls and translators for school/home written communication. Families that need these services are identified at the time of enrollment and recorded in our student management system. Be sure to indicate when scheduling or attending a meeting with school staff that a translator is need.

Geneva Area City Schools currently provides a Spanish/English translator who provide interpretation and translation services. If interpretation/translation services are needed in a language other than Spanish, the District will make every attempt to accommodate you.

### **Amount of ESL Services**

The amount of service is dependent on the following criteria:

- Pre/Post Language Assessment
- Teacher Recommendation
- Academic Achievement

### **How long will my child be in the ESL program?**

The length of time an English Language Learner (ELL) student spends in the program is dependent on their level of proficiency. Research indicates it can take from 5 to 7 years to acquire academic language proficiency compared to a native speaker. Therefore, the amount of support given to an ELL student will depend on his/her progress in the new language. The typical path of an ELL is from full support, to minimal support, to progress monitoring by the ESL teacher. When the student becomes proficient in the four domains of language acquisition Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing (as indicated by their scores on the state language assessment), the student is then exited from the program.

To be exited from LEP programs in Ohio, students must demonstrate proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They must be able to:

- Achieve successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is in English
- Meaningfully participate in academic assessments in English; and
- Attain the state's required level of English proficiency. This includes:
  - A composite score of 5 on the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA); or
  - Obtains a composite score of 4 on the OELPA, subsequently completes a trial period of mainstream instruction and obtains a composite score of 4 or above on the OELPA during the trial period of mainstream instruction

For more information, contact the ESL teacher, Mrs. Amanda Cramb, via email at [amanda.cramb@genevaschools.org](mailto:amanda.cramb@genevaschools.org)

## **FAQ-Frequently Asked Questions (English)**

### **What will my child be taught?**

Our district's ESL Program addresses the four basic skills in English: listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills are introduced and reinforced throughout the year in order to increase the language proficiency and standardized test-taking skills of each student to help him/her meet the state's academic standards.

### **Who provides service to English Language Learners?**

Direct ESL services are provided by a highly qualified educator who are licensed in elementary and/or secondary education and are TESOL endorsed. Indirectly, an "ESL language acquisition plan is developed for each ESL student. The plan is developed in cooperation with general education teachers of English and Language Arts to support you child in the general curriculum.

### **Is it required for the ESL teacher to speak my child's native language?**

No, it is not required. However, there are a few bilingual staff members who are available to address the needs or concerns of parents.

### **Will the emphasis on English cause my child to forget his native language?**

English Language Learners are taught to assimilate to their new language and American culture while being encouraged to value their native language and ethnicity.

## **Preguntas frecuentes (español)**

### **¿Qué se le enseñará a mi hijo?**

El programa de ESL de nuestro distrito aborda las cuatro habilidades básicas en inglés: escuchar, hablar, leer y escribir. Estas habilidades se introducen y refuerzan a lo largo del año con el fin de aumentar el dominio del idioma y las habilidades estandarizadas para tomar exámenes de cada estudiante para ayudarlo a cumplir con los estándares académicos del estado.

### **¿Quién brinda servicios a los estudiantes del idioma inglés?**

Los servicios directos de ESL son proporcionados por un educador altamente calificado que tiene licencia en educación primaria y / o secundaria y están avalados por TESOL. Indirectamente, se desarrolló un "plan de adquisición del lenguaje ESL para cada estudiante de ESL". El plan se desarrolla en cooperación con maestros de educación general de inglés y artes lingüísticas para apoyar a su hijo en el plan de estudios general.

### **¿Se requiere que el maestro de ESL hable el idioma materno de mi hijo?**

No, no es obligatorio. Sin embargo, hay algunos miembros del personal bilingüe que están disponibles para atender las necesidades o inquietudes de los padres.

### **¿El énfasis en inglés hará que mi hijo olvide su lengua materna?**

A los estudiantes del idioma inglés se les enseña a asimilarse a su nuevo idioma y a la cultura estadounidense, a la vez que se les anima a valorar su idioma materno y su origen étnico.