



ESOL Resource Kit

ESOL programs are designed to help make sure that students whose primary language is not English get what they deserve - the same educational opportunities as any other student. However, ESOL programs can vary dramatically depending on which school your child attends. If your child could benefit from these services, it's important to know what to look for when you are considering or evaluating a school. Use this resource to help you better understand what's offered so you can make sure your child gets what they need.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the ESOL/ELL program?

A: ESOL stands for English to Speakers of Other Languages. ELL stands for English Language Learners. ESOL is a program for students whose primary/native language is one other than English.

Q: How long are students in the ESOL program?

A: Students are typically in an ESOL program until they have a proficient understanding of the English language. How a school/program measures proficiency can vary, so it's helpful to ask the school or instructor.

Q: What assistance do parents receive?

A: School Districts have a legal obligation to provide meaningful communication with ELL parents in a language they can understand by providing translation or interpretation. Types of services might include translated documents, Robo Calls in a preferred language, and/or personalized phone calls with a translator and teacher.

Questions to Consider Asking Prospective Schools or Current School

Q: What instructional model do you use to teach my child English?

Q: How do you measure English proficiency?

Q: What kinds of services will my student receive as part of the ESOL program at this school?

Q: My student isn't progressing in English as much as I would like them to. What can we do at home to support their learning?

Q: I feel my student is falling behind in other subjects besides English. Do you offer tutoring or other support in other content areas?

Q: Can I choose for my students to not be in the ESOL program?

Q: How can my student test out of the ESOL program?

Q: If my student is being pulled out of class to learn English, how do I know they are not missing out on important information during class?