

## **Williamson County Schools ESL Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How does my child qualify for ESL services?**

1. A parent, teacher, principal, or other school official refers the student to the ESL program. The Home Language survey is used as a referral in many cases.
2. The student is assessed based on the state proficiency test, standardized test scores, and any other factors that may attest to the student's English ability.
3. If the student is assessed as a non-English speaker or a student of limited English proficiency, then the student will receive assistance based on the student's needs.

### **How does my child exit the ESL program?**

A student's exit from ESL services is based on proficiency in all areas of English language: listening, speaking, reading, grammar, and writing. A variety of criteria is used to document the student's proficiency. Such evidence may include a score of FEP (Fluent English Proficiency) on the state proficiency test, at or above grade level standardized test scores, and satisfactory classroom performance. There will be a two-year transition period in which support will be provided as necessary. Afterwards, the ESL teacher will make recommendations regarding exiting.

### **How long will my student need ESL services?**

Four to seven years is the expected range of time for a student to need ESL services. Many factors may cause this time to be longer or shorter: the age and grade level at which students enter US schools, students' literacy in the native language, and individual variables including motivation, effort, and study habits. Students are always evaluated individually every year.

CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency) usually takes a minimum of five to seven years to be sufficient for the student to function in a regular classroom. For some students, it takes longer.

### **What is taught in ESL class?**

Elementary/Middle School

- Individualized curriculum designed to meet the needs of each student
- One-on-one or small group instruction
- Pull-out program (some inclusion in the regular classroom)

- Curriculum that corresponds to WCS scope and sequence
- Close collaboration with classroom teachers
- English reading, writing, grammar, listening, and speaking skills
- Vocabulary building and communication techniques
- Examples of basic topics include: school vocabulary, colors, shapes, numbers, letters and sounds, word order, home vocabulary, personal information, health, community, expressions
- Materials and strategies vary according to student needs

### High School

- Individualized curriculum for each level of English proficiency
- Daily instruction for credit ESL classes
- Curriculum that corresponds to WCS scope and sequence
- Close collaboration with classroom teachers
- English reading, writing, grammar, listening, and speaking skills
- Vocabulary building and communication techniques
- Material and strategies vary according to student need
- ESL students will receive all services, including an individualized education program, if appropriate.

### **What are my rights as a parent of an ESL student?**

- Parents have access to all school information concerning your child.
- Parents may waive student's participation in the ESL program if they meet with the ESL teacher and make their request in writing.
- Parents will be notified if their child is eligible for ESL services.
- Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in the educational program for ESL students.

### **What can I do at home?**

- Talk with your children about their school day. Find out what has been learned in all classes. Make sure your children do their homework assignments. Show your children you care about their learning.
- Read with your children: read with your children in your home language and read in English. Parent interest in reading and learning will inspire children to read.