



Texas Education Agency  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

**For additional information  
on ESL programs:**

Texas Education Agency  
Division of Curriculum

(512) 463-9581

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=4098>



# English as a Second Language Program:

*Benefits  
for Your  
Child*



## What is an *English as a Second Language (ESL)* program?

- ESL is intensive English language instruction by teachers trained in effective language acquisition strategies who work with English Language Learners.
- ESL instruction shall be commensurate with the student's level of English proficiency and academic achievement.
- An ESL program provides intensive instruction that develops competency in the listening, speaking, reading, and writing of the English language.
- An ESL program uses the academic and cultural background of the student as a platform to provide the appropriate instruction in English.

## What is the purpose of an *ESL* program?

- An ESL program develops competence in English.
- An ESL program prepares the students to be successful in all academic subjects.
- An ESL program emphasizes the mastery of English language skills, as well as, mathematics, science, and social studies, using research-based methodologies appropriate for second language acquisition.

## Who is eligible for an *ESL* program?

- Students in prekindergarten through high school who speak or hear a language other than English in their home and who are learning English are eligible.
- Students will be assessed in language proficiency and based on their results, a recommendation for placement will be made by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), and parent permission will be required for participation.

## Will my child be taught the same subjects and learn the same skills as students in the regular program?

- Yes, all students in an ESL program will receive instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in English with linguistic accommodations based on their English language proficiency level.
- Yes, language arts, reading, mathematics, science and social studies are integral parts of the state mandated curriculum.
- Yes, students will have a meaningful opportunity to participate in art, music and physical education which are part of a balanced curriculum.

*Texas Education Code §29.051 – State Policy*  
*Public Schools are responsible for providing a full opportunity for all students to become competent in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the English language. The mastery of basic English language skills is a prerequisite for effective participation in the state's educational program.*

## Who is responsible for teaching an *ESL* program?

- Teachers, who are highly qualified, specially trained, and certified to teach in ESL settings/ classrooms/programs in a manner or approach that meets the special language needs of the students.

## How is an *ESL* program different from English language arts instruction?

- The focus is on learning social and academic English within the context of all content area subjects.
- State-adopted ESL materials and ESL certified teachers support students become proficient in English, learn the knowledge and skills in the TEKS, and reach their full academic potential.

## How can parents help their child learn by participating in an *ESL* program?

- Parent approval is required to allow their child to participate and benefit from the program.
- Parents can participate as a member of the LPAC that helps determine how students are identified, placed, instructed and assessed.
- Parents can become involved at home by encouraging their child to achieve, providing him/her a place to study and showing interest in his/her schoolwork.
- Parents can volunteer and help in classroom activities.