BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: June 13, 2022

Topic: ESOL Endorsement Program (Annual)

Background Information: The USD 259 ESOL Department will utilize ESOL Funds to assist in the process of providing quality teachers for ELL students. This program is available to all teachers who work directly with ELL students. Upon entering the program, participants develop a plan of study which is placed on file in the ESOL Instructional Services Department. Participants then enroll with one of the three universities.

After enrollment, the participants provide proof of university enrollment to the ESOL office. Participants then receive authorization to present to their university, which allows the university to bill the ESOL office for the total enrollment amount. Participants who drop or do not complete a course after classes commence are responsible for all fees incurred. Participants must fulfill the following conditions of the 2005 agreement: 1) Current WPS employment 2) Active in at least one course per semester 3) Accept teaching assignment in an ESOL school 4) Successfully pass the Praxis 5) Ensure endorsement is officially listed on the professional teaching license 6) Work with the ELL students for a period of 2 years following the completion of the endorsement 7) Complete endorsement within 3 years of the date the participant begins to take classes. Participants who do not fulfill the conditions of the agreement are required to payback complete tuition expenses to the Wichita Public Schools.

Rationale: All ESOL students must have contact minutes by either an ESOL endorsed teacher or a teacher on a Plan of Study. Teachers become endorsed by passing the Praxis for English for Speakers of Other Languages. The university programs provide knowledge for the teachers to teach ELL students and pass the Praxis exam. The ESOL Instructional Department also offers study groups for the Praxis three times throughout the year.

Currently, WPS has 1326 endorsed teachers district wide and 95 teachers on a plan of study. In addition, WPS has teachers with ESOL endorsements who have transferred to other non-ESOL schools that have benefitted from the program and are using the ESOL instructional strategies learned in their classrooms. The chart below depicts the number of teachers in attendance centers with endorsements and does not include endorsed staff working at non-attendance centers.

ESOL Teachers	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Endorsed	NA	NA	285	300	450	622	687	725	817	816	932	950	995	1091	1088	1063	1284
Plan of Study	224	310	430	455	455	454	450	420	363	431	341	238	158	131	116	123	95
Total	224	310	715	755	905	1,076	1,137	1,145	1,180	1,247	1,273	1,188	1,153	1,222	1204	1183	1379
		+86	+405	+40	+150	+171	+61	+8	+35	+67	+26	-85	-35	+69	-18	-39	+196

History: The purpose of the ESOL program is to help students learn English and academic skills necessary to transition into regular core academic classes. Wichita students come from 95 countries of birth with 105 languages spoken. USD 259 has 7,056 ESOL students in 2021-2022. (September 2021 Count)

Process: Students are initially identified with a Home Language Survey and then assessed for their English proficiency for receiving ESOL services. Depending on an English Language Learner's initial placement, students' progress is assessed from Newcomers (little to no English) to Interventions (transitioning into English abilities) and into Core Classrooms (mainstreamed with ESOL support). Many of our current refugee students arrive with no English and very little to no academics necessitating additional Newcomer classroom support beyond one year. Students are continuously monitored for growth and tested yearly in ESOL literacy (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) skills for improvements.