**Appendix 5**

## BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
## Date: September 11, 2023

Topic: ESOL Endorsement Program (Annual)

Background Information (History, Rationale, etc): 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 ESOL 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.

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.

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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 93 countries of birth with 112 languages spoken. USD 259 has 7,273 ESOL students in 2022-2023. (September 2022 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 improvement.