BOE Agenda Item Executive Summary
Date: October 7, 2024

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 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 pay back 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 throughout the year.