

Parent Handbook

English Language Development Program

Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools

2024 - 2025



Knowing multiple languages is a gift you can give your child! Many children lose the ability to speak and read in their home language when growing up in the United States. With encouragement from you, though, your child can become fluent in not just one language, but two!

Important Phone Numbers

GSL School District

District Office 320-864-2491
Superintendent, Christopher Sonju
320-864-2498

School closing information
320-864-2499 press 1

Junior and Senior High School

Main Office 320-864-2400
Attendance Line 320-864-2454
Activities Line 320-864-2487

Junior/Senior High Principal, Matt Foss 320-864-2401
Assistant Principal, Sarah Beckman 320-864-2449

Lakeside Elementary

Main Office 320-864-2500
Attendance Line 320-864-2565

Lincoln Elementary

Main Office 320-864-2666
Attendance Line 320-864-2665

Principal, Bill Butler 320-864-2677
Assistant Principal, Joy Freitag 320-864-2501

Glencoe School Bus Garage

Main Line 320-864-3032

ELD Teacher Contact Information:

District Spanish Interpreter/Migrant Liaison
Guadalupe Acevedo
864-2686
lacevedo@gsl.k12.mn.us

Lincoln Elementary School
Grades K-2
Kennedy Kamish – ELD Teacher
864-2659
kkamish@gsl.k12.mn.us

Lakeside Elementary School
Grades 3-6
Jami Ronholm – ELD Teacher
Anne Taylor – ELD Teacher
Tina Aguilar – Spanish Speaking Cultural Liaison/Paraeducator
864-2536
jronholm@gsl.k12.mn.us
ataylor@gsl.k12.mn.us
raguilar@gsl.k12.mn.us

GSL Junior High School
GSL High School
Grades 7-12
Sundee Kuechle – Spanish and ELD Teacher
Cynthia Ruiz – Spanish Speaking Paraeducator
864-2435
skuechle@gsl.k12.mn.us
cruiz@gsl.k12.mn.us

Welcome!

Welcome to the Glencoe Silver Lake English Language Development (ELD) Program! ELD services at GSL are designed to enable our multilingual learners to achieve the same academic standards as all other students. We focus on systematic and explicit academic English language instruction which follows a developmental scope and sequence. We include English language instruction in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

How does my student *qualify* for ELD services?

- Students are identified as potential English learners based on the student's Minnesota Home Language Survey (MNLS).
- If a language other than English is listed on the MNLS, the EL teacher will administer the WIDA Screener to determine if students qualify for ELD services. The WIDA Screener provides English proficiency levels in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Parents will be notified in writing within 30 days of placement in the ELD program.
- You have the right to decline ELD service for your child. If you choose to decline services, please contact us at the phone numbers listed on the contact page. We will meet with you to discuss what is best for your child in this regard.

We will inform you in writing if your child has qualified for or has been recommended for the ELD program.

What *types* of services are provided for my English learner?

Direct Service– Students leave the mainstream classroom to spend a specific amount of time dedicated to learning academic English with a certified and licensed EL teacher. The focus of this time is explicit and systematic academic language instruction. The students will not miss core Reading or Math instruction during their time in ELD.

Indirect Service – EL teacher or bilingual paraprofessional provides additional language support in the general education classroom or in a small group setting.

When does my student *exit* the program?

The academic progress of EL students is monitored throughout the year by the ELD teachers at each building. When the student has met the following required criteria then he/she may qualify to exit the ELD program.

- Students **must** score proficient on the annual WIDA ACCESS or WIDA Screener language proficiency tests based on the guidelines provided by the Minnesota Department of Education.
- Once a student attains English proficiency, they will be actively monitored by EL personnel for a period of two years.

I can participate in my child's education by:

- ✓ Plan ahead to limit my child's absences. **Make school a priority!**
- ✓ Attend my child's conferences.
- ✓ Read with my child in my native language or in English.
- ✓ Volunteer in my student's classroom or in school activities.
- ✓ Practice good study habits daily. Set aside time for my child to study on a regular basis!

Community Outreach:

We welcome any communication with our ELD families. We are interested in any questions or comments you may have and are working on developing some ways to communicate more often with you.

If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to contact us any time. Our contact information is listed on the Contact Information page of this booklet. We look forward to working with you and your children!