

How can I support my child?

- Read to your child in his/her home language. Research shows that reading to your child in his/her home language will support the development of English literacy skills.
- Tell your child stories in your home language. Talk about your own childhood or things you remember from the past.
- Show your child that you value your home language. Speak to him/her in that language even if he or she responds in English.
- Get a library card for your child, go to the library, and borrow books in his/her home language.
- Be sure to attend parent/teacher conferences scheduled by the school. If necessary, ask the school to provide an interpreter for any/all meetings or events.
- In the United States, parents are an integral part of the education system. Ask your child's teacher how you can participate.

If your child's home language is not English, but he/she is learning English, your child is becoming bilingual. Congratulations! Bilingual children have unique assets and advantages, and have great opportunities ahead of them.



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Mission Statement

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Charles County Public Schools system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kriessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults) at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6510/301-870-3814. For special accommodations, call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).



Charles County Public Schools

**PARENT GUIDE
FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS
ESOL PROGRAM**



Who is an English Learner?

An English Learner (EL) is a student who is in the process of learning to speak, read, write, and listen to academic English. This is the English that is used in classrooms, textbooks, and tests. ELs are usually, but not always, students whose home language is not English.

How does the school know that my child is an EL?

When you registered your child in school for the first time, you completed a Home Language Survey. This survey has three questions. If two or more of the questions had an answer that was NOT English, your student will be screened to see if qualifies for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services.

What kind of support will my child receive?

Charles County Public Schools provides immersion services at all levels of school. Immersion services at the elementary and middle school level include two sessions each week for at least 30 minutes with an ESOL teacher, outside of the general education classroom. At the high school level, immersion services include daily 45-minute sessions with an ESOL teacher.

If you do not want your child to participate in the ESOL Program, you have the right to waive direct services with the ESOL teacher. However, your child will still be an EL and will still participate in all other program components, such as the yearly summative test for English Language Proficiency (ELP).



“You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once.”

CZECH PROVERB

How does the school know when my child is proficient in English?

Each year, the Maryland State Department of Education requires all schools to assess the ELP of all ELs.

The test used to assess ELP is the **WIDA ACCESS for ELLs**. Students demonstrate their progress in speaking, reading, writing, and listening to academic English at the level of their peers. ELs receive a composite score between 1.0 and 6.0.

Your child will exit the ESOL Program and become a **Reclassified English Learner (REL)** when they achieve a composite score of 4.5 or higher. The school will continue monitoring his/her academic progress for two years, but your child will no longer receive ESOL services.