



ELL ENGLISH 9TH-12TH

Approved by KSD Board of Education: May 18, 2026

Course Description:

This course provides intensive English language development for Newcomer and Beginning English Language Learners (WIDA ACCESS Scores 0-2.5). Students build foundational language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing, while they develop the academic vocabulary and language structures needed to access grade-level curriculum in their mainstream content classes. Instruction is organized into short, responsive mini-units based on the students' immediate needs in their content-area classes. Lessons target specific vocabulary and language skills directly connected to students' current coursework, ensuring relevance while covering all Missouri English Language Development (ELD) standards.

Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade

Unit Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Getting Started and Building Community

Ongoing: Responsive mini-units

Course Enduring Understandings:

- We learn a language better when learning is connected to our needs and interests.
- The same language skills can be applied to any class we are studying.
- We learn a language by practicing the same skills many times with different topics.
- We benefit from seeing how language skills can be used in each of our classes.

Course Essential Questions:

- What language helps me understand better in my classes?
- What language do I need to do well in all my classes?
- How does what I'm learning in ELL class help me in my other classes?
- How can I use language to talk about topics I care about?

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Unit 1: Getting Started, Building Community, & Tier 1 Vocabulary

This foundational unit establishes the social (Tier 1) and instructional (Tier 2 and Tier 3) language needed for success in school. Students learn to introduce themselves, ask for help, follow directions, and participate in classroom routines. The unit also introduces the concept that language is used differently in different classes and that students will be learning language that helps them succeed in all their classes.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• I can participate more in school when I know how to ask for help and follow directions. • I can participate more and feel safe in school when I understand the school routines and procedures. • Language is used differently in different classes and contexts. • I can use the language skills I learn in ELL class in all my other classes.	• How do I communicate my needs at school? • How do I participate in classroom routines and follow directions? • How is language used differently in different classes? • What language will help me succeed in my classes this year?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• School location and classroom object vocabulary • Basic greetings and introductions • Question words and polite request language • How to ask for clarification and help • Basic vocabulary from their content classes	• Introduce themselves and ask basic questions • Follow classroom directions and routines • Ask for help when confused • Identify language they'll need in their content classes • Recognize that different subjects use language differently

Missouri Learning Standards
Priority Standard 1: Language for Social and Instructional Purposes English language learners communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting.

ELL ENGLISH 9TH-12TH ONGOING: RESPONSIVE MINI-UNITS

Each mini-unit throughout the year is designed to integrate what students are learning in their other classes. The teacher evaluates the gap between what the students need to know to be successful in their current coursework and their current level to design lessons that are responsive to the students' individual needs. The units develop academic language across disciplines that align with the *WIDA Key Language Uses*.

The teacher will:

- Connect to life skills, mathematics, science, social studies, and English with a focus on high-level language functions that recur across all grade levels and disciplines:
 - Narrate: Describe events, changes, and sequences
 - Inform: Describe observations, report information, and identify similarities and differences
 - Explain: Explain processes, procedures, relationships, and causes; analyze data, visuals, and patterns
 - Argue: Support claims and evaluate ideas
- Help students make connections between academic learning and real life.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
● We learn language best when we use it in context of what we are experiencing. ● There are different ways to express ourselves depending on our goals. ● Some words are used similarly in different classes, while others may have different meanings. ● What I am learning in class can be applied to life outside of school.	● What words can I use to inform someone about something? ● What words can I use to convince someone? ● What words can I use to help someone understand? ● What words can I use to tell someone what happened? ● How is language used similarly in my core classes? ● How is language used differently in my core classes? ● How is what I am learning relevant to my life?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
● Tier 2 words (see appendix)—Key academic vocabulary used across disciplines ● Tier 3 words (see appendix) ○ Key academic vocabulary for English ○ Key academic vocabulary for science ○ Key academic vocabulary for social studies	● Use the right language for different subjects and purposes. ● Describe. ● Explain. ● Support ideas. ● Tell stories. ● Compare. ● Interpret. ● Use academic language when

ELL ENGLISH 9TH-12TH ONGOING: RESPONSIVE MINI-UNITS

○ Key academic vocabulary for math ● Language structures and sentence frames for the four WIDA Key Language Uses: ○ Inform ○ Explain ○ Argue ○ Narrate ● Connecting words that show how ideas relate (because, however, first, next, etc...)	appropriate. ● Use language skills learned in one class in other classes. ● Identify what language they need help with and ask for support. ● Understand and use grade-level academic language in their schoolwork. ● Write complete sentences and paragraphs. ● Participate in simple discussions.
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Missouri Learning Standards

Priority Standard 2: Language for Language Arts

English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of language arts.

Priority Standard 3: Language for Mathematics

English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of mathematics.

Priority Standard 4: Language for Science

English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of science.

Priority Standard 5: Language for Social Studies

English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of social studies.

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APPENDIX: TIER 2 AND TIER 3 VOCABULARY TERMS

For English Language Learners (ELLs) in high school, success in the classroom depends on mastering a blend of academic vocabulary used across all subjects (Tier 2 words), content-specific terms (Tier 3 words), as well as words with multiple meanings. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to a range of terms that will help them be successful in their coursework, with an emphasis on those words that appear across all core classes. Tier 3 words will be taught on a needed basis depending on students' current coursework.

TIER 2 WORDS

Academic Vocabulary

Analyze	Distinguish	Infer
Adopt	Distinction	Interpret
Assess	Establish	Justify
Cause and effect	Evaluate	Modify
Cite evidence	Examine	Policy
Classify	Explain	Predict
Compare	Formulate	Rationalize
Conflict	Fundamental	Relate (relationship)
Contrast	Identify	Summarize
Define	Illustrate	Support
Describe	Implement	Utilize

TIER 3 WORDS

English Specific Terms	
<i>Literary Terms</i>	<i>Story Elements</i>
<i>Dialogue, Figurative language, Idiom, Metaphor, Mood, Narrative, Point of view, Simile, Stanza, Structure, Symbolism, Theme, Tone, Rhyme, Rhythm, Line, Verse, Alliteration, Personification, Onomatopoeia, Genre, Fiction, Nonfiction, Foreshadowing</i>	<i>Author, Title, Narrator, Main character, Supporting character, Climax, Conflict, Plot, Resolution, Setting, Theme, Problem, Solution, Beginning, Middle, End, Events, Sequence</i>
<i>Comprehension Terms</i>	<i>Text Features</i>
<i>Main idea, Detail, Summarize, Predict, Infer, Context clues, Cause, Effect, Compare, Contrast, Sequence, Author's purpose</i>	<i>Heading, Caption, Diagram, Chart/table, Bold, Glossary, Index, Table of contents</i>

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APPENDIX: TIER 2 AND TIER 3 VOCABULARY TERMS

<i>Argument/Persuasion Terms</i>	<i>Structure and Transitions</i>
Argument, Persuade, Support, Counterclaim, Source, Claim, Evidence, Fact, Opinion, Perspective, Reason	after, also, and, because, before, but, different, finally, first, for example, however, in addition, like, next, same, similarly, so, then, therefore, too, while, in conclusion, on the other hand, as a result, in contrast

Math Specific Terms	
<i>General Math</i>	<i>Algebra</i>
<i>Addition (Add, Plus, Sum, Total, Increase, Combined, Altogether); Subtraction (Subtract, Minus, Difference, Less than, Fewer than, Decreased, Take away); Multiplication (Multiply, Product, Times, Of, Per); Division (Divide, Quotient, Divided by, Ratio, Out of); Instructions (Evaluate, Simplify, Solve, Factor); Altogether, Answer, Chart, Compare, Data, Equal, Fewer, Graph, Greater, Least, Less, More, Most, Problem, Solve, Sum, Table, Count, Numbers, Ones, Tens/Tenths, Hundreds/Hundredths, Thousands/Thousandths, Whole Number, Fraction, Digit, Place, Decimal, Decimal point, One half, One fourth, One third</i>	<i>Apply, Associative, Base, Coefficient, Commutative, Compute, Constant, Determine, Distributive, Equal/Equals, Equation, Equivalent, Estimate, Exponent, Expression, Factor/Factors, Function, Integers, Is Equal To, Mapping, Negative, Negative Sign, Operations, Percent, Positive, Property, Ratio, Reasonable, Related, Rewrite, Signed, Simplify, Solution, Solve, Substitute, Term/Terms, Unknown Quantity, Value, Variable</i>
<i>Geometry</i>	<i>Words with Multiple Meanings</i>
<i>Circle, Hexagon, Octagon, Pentagon, Parallelogram, Rectangle, Square, Triangle, Polygon, Height, Length, Width, Line</i>	<i>Volume: Space inside a shape vs. loudness Table: A grid of data vs. furniture</i>

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APPENDIX: TIER 2 AND TIER 3 VOCABULARY TERMS

<i>segment, Endpoint, Horizontal, Vertical, Parallel, Perpendicular, Intersect/Intersecting, Sides, Vertex, Circumference, Diameter, Radius, Area, Perimeter, Quadrilateral, Adjacent, Complementary, Coordinates, Coordinate Origin, Plane, Graph, Angle (Acute, right, obtuse, straight)</i>	<i>Product: The answer to multiplication vs. a manufactured item</i> <i>Rational/Real: Types of numbers vs. reasonable/actual</i> <i>Similar: Geometric figures with the same shape vs. alike</i> <i>Variable: A symbol for a number vs. changeable</i> <i>Prime: A type of number vs. top quality</i>
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Science Specific Terms	
Biology	Chemistry
<i>Cell, Nucleus, Cytoplasm, Photosynthesis, Respiration, Evolution, Organism, Species, Ecosystem, DNA, RNA, Gene, Bacteria, Virus, Protein.</i>	<i>Atom, Molecule, Electron, Proton, Element, Compound, Matter, Charge, Density, Force, Energy (kinetic/potential), Gas, Liquid, Solid, Conductor, Insulator, Reaction, Reactant, Product, Periodic Table, Concentration.</i>
Physics	General Science Terms
<i>Force, Motion, Mass, Push, Pull, Lift, Pressure, Energy, Power, Electricity, Matter, Flow/flows, Move, Materials, Light, Sound</i>	<i>Balance/Scale, Beaker, Bunsen Burner, Conclusion, Control, Data, Evidence, Experiment, Goggles, Graph, Hypothesis, Inference, Metric System (Grams, Liters, Meters), Microscope, Model, Observation, Pipette, Test Tube, Thermometer, Theory, Variable, Length, Measure, Time, Weight, Inch, Foot/Feet, Centimeter, Meter, Gram, Liter</i>

**ELL BEGINNING 9TH-12TH
APPENDIX: TIER 2 AND TIER 3 VOCABULARY TERMS**

Social Studies Specific Terms	
<i>US History</i>	<i>World History</i>
<i>Slavery, Revolution, Civil War, Colony, Democracy, Independence, War, Freedom, Settlers, Pilgrims, Voting, Native Americans, Capitol, State, Tribes, Ancestors, European, Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, Immigrants, Taxes, Tariffs</i>	<i>Civilization, Colony, Revolution, War, Migration, Nations, Society, Beliefs, Government, Citizen, Tradition, Continents, Oceans, Cultures, Ancestors, Time Period, Religion, Laws, Traded</i>
<i>US Government</i>	<i>Geography</i>
<i>Republican, Democrat, Democracy, Republic, Constitution, Amendment, Citizen, Right, Law, Election, State, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, Legislative, Congress, Senate, House of Representatives, Executive, President, Vice President, Judicial, Supreme Court, Rights, Responsibilities</i>	<i>Continent, Nation, Region, Hemisphere, Latitude, Longitude, Equator, Border, Territory, Climate, River, Lake, Agriculture, Desert, Ocean, Sea, Mountain</i>