



Hattiesburg Public Schools

301 Mamie Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: 601-582-5078
Fax: 601-583-7339

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to welcome you to Hattiesburg Public Schools. Upon enrollment, a language other than English was noted on your child's Home Language Survey. According to state and federal law, our school district is required to assess the English language proficiency of your child in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Based on the results of the Placement Test, a state-approved assessment for measuring English language proficiency, we have determined that your child could benefit from our language instruction program during the school year. Your child's results are attached.

Teachers of English Learners provide a variety of specialized services until students demonstrate skills in English sufficient for them to succeed academically in the regular classroom. While the rate of English language development varies between students, many exit the EL program in 3-7 years. Your child's English language development will continue to be assessed each year until he or she meets the criteria to exit the English Learner (EL) program. To be eligible for exit, a student must achieve a Level 4 or 5 in all four domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing, and earn an overall Proficiency Status of *Proficient* on the annual English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT). Level 5 is the highest score a student can receive. Once a student exits the EL program, their academic progress will be monitored for four additional years to ensure continued success.

All children, regardless of English proficiency, are eligible to participate in all school-wide programs. If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or a 504 plan, the language instruction educational program will be utilized in coordination with your child's existing plan.

Throughout the school year, you will have many opportunities to learn about your child's progress in academics and learning English. We encourage you to attend parent-teacher conferences and school events to support your child's academic success. Your efforts will help us meet the 2026-2027 expected rate for proficiency of 100%.

You have the right to enroll or not enroll your child in the program. You also have the right to withdraw your child at any time from the program. If you have questions or comments regarding our English Language Program and/or services, please contact Kristina Pollard at (601-582-5078 ext. 1044) for questions in English and Patricia Cater at (601-583-4311 ext. 5515) or Adriana Marin (601-582-6655, ext. 3005) for questions in Spanish.

We look forward to working with your child during this school year.

Sincerely,

Robert Williams, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher. Thank you!

____ Yes, I would like for my child to participate in the English Learner Program provided by Hattiesburg Public Schools.

____ No, I would not like for my child to participate in the English Learner Program provided by the Hattiesburg Public Schools.

Child's Name: _____

School: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

K-12 Program Services for English Learners

Our school district provides English language instruction within the context of academic content - using grade-level curriculum - to students in all grades and at all levels of English language proficiency (ELP) by offering the following programs: push-in services, pull-out services, English Language Mainstream, small group ESL class and virtual learning. Additionally, differentiated instruction will be used in order to meet your child's academic strengths and weaknesses.

Pull-out/Push-in EL: An English program that serves identified EL students in English only by providing a certified teacher or paraprofessional to provide English language acquisition instruction exclusively, while the student remains in a mainstream instructional arrangement in the remaining content areas. Instruction may be provided by the EL teacher in a pull-out or inclusionary delivery model.

English Language Mainstream: Students are instructed in English at all times with grade-level curriculum and materials. Students continue to receive additional and appropriate instruction in order to meet the requirements to be classified as proficient in the English language.

ESL Class (Secondary Level only): ESL class introduces students to basic structures and vocabulary of the English language through the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn strategies in order to advance their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students will expand oral comprehensibility and write complete sentences, a standard paragraph, and short content-based essays. They work towards utilizing grade-level-appropriate conventions of grammar and punctuation with a minimum of errors.

EL Virtual Learning (*Applicable when the 100% Virtual Learning option is available per District guidelines*):

An English program that serves identified EL students by providing English language acquisition instruction exclusively through a virtual learning environment while the student remains in a mainstream virtual instructional arrangement in the remaining content areas. Ins