

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The East Stroudsburg Area School District is a growing school district located along the Delaware River in the Pocono Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The school district spans 214 square miles in northeastern Monroe County and southern Pike County. The school district's location offers convenient access to New York City and surrounding metropolitan areas of northern New Jersey.

Six elementary schools: Bushkill Elementary, East Stroudsburg Elementary, J. M. Hill Elementary, Middle Smithfield Elementary, Resica Elementary, and Smithfield Elementary serve students in kindergarten through grade five. Two intermediate schools, J. T. Lambert Intermediate and Lehman Intermediate serve students in grades six through eight. East Stroudsburg Senior High School North and East Stroudsburg Senior High School South serve students in grades nine through twelve.

The school district is becoming more cosmopolitan in character as its population increases. Diversity is an emerging strength as all students are exposed to a wider range of educational experiences from a cultural and curricular perspective. Programming continues to expand to meet the varied needs of the school district's growing population, including the increasing number of English Language Learners.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The English As A Second Language Program (ESL) is an instructional program for students who are learning to speak, read, and write English. The ESL program is offered at each of the school district's elementary and secondary schools.

As required by law, ESL instruction is a core subject provided to all English Language Learners (ELLs). The ESL Program is designed to temporarily replace or supplement the elementary language arts or secondary English program while students learn to understand, speak, read, and write English.

Students that qualify for the ESL Program receive instruction in all other areas of the curriculum in the regular classroom. The regular classroom teacher and the ESL teacher work together to help the ELL to be successful in the regular classroom as the student increases his/her ability to use English.

The goals of the school district's English As A Second Language Program are:

- To foster ELLs' acquisition and use of English in social situations.
- To support the ELLs' academic progress and achievement of PA academic standards.
- To expand and the ELLs' understanding of appropriate ways to communicate with others.

ASSESSMENT AND PLACEMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires that all publicly funded schools in the state have parents complete a Home Language Survey when enrolling their child.

This survey asks parents to answer several questions that provide school personnel with information that helps to identify students whose primary language is not English and who need help learning English. Home Language Survey questions include:

- *Does the child speak a language other than English? If yes, specify the language?*
- *What was the first language that your child learned to speak?*
- *What language(s) is/are spoken in your home?*

If the answer to any of these questions is a language other than English, the ESL teacher will meet with the student to determine if the student qualifies for support provided by the ESL program. An assessment of the student's level of English proficiency will determine the amount of time that will be devoted to ESL instruction.

Each student's progress in learning English will be reviewed by the ESL teacher on a regular basis, so that an appropriate English language program can be provided. The ESL teacher will provide parents with a quarterly report card to share information regarding the student's progress in learning English. Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled at specified times for all students. Parents may also request a conference at any time throughout the school year.

The student will continue to participate in the ESL program until he/she is able to speak, read, and write English well enough to be successful in the regular classroom without ESL support. Exit from the program will be based on an assessment given by the ESL teacher and the student's classroom performance.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND THEIR PARENTS

East Stroudsburg Area School District strives to respond to the needs of English language learners and the significant challenges that they face in adjusting to their new environment and becoming a part of their new school community.

Students with limited English proficiency are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the academic and extracurricular programs that are offered. The school district provides English language learners access to any course of study for which they qualify, as well as all services, programs, and extracurricular activities offered in the school district.

In addition to the support offered by the ESL staff, counseling services and school programs provide support related to adjustment to a new school and culture. Pupil services available to all students include career/educational planning, self-esteem, interpersonal relations, mental and physical health related concerns, special learning needs, and school safety issues.

The school district recognizes its responsibility to keep parents informed regarding child's overall progress and available services. A Parent Orientation Program presented by the ESL staff is provided at the beginning of the school year. If requested, translators will be secured to assist with parent-teacher conferences.

ESL PROGRAM STAFF

To provide a quality program leading to students' successful acquisition of English and academic skills, the East Stroudsburg Area School District is committed to selecting, hiring, and fostering the professional development of highly qualified personnel. ESL teachers are certificated professionals.

The school district provides professional staff development opportunities for all teachers designed to help them meet the needs of English language learners in acquiring English and subject matter skills.

Frequently asked questions:

- **Who is eligible?**
Any student who is not proficient in understanding, speaking, reading and writing English based on the language proficiency assessment administered by the ESL teacher is eligible for ESL instruction. The Idea Proficiency Test is the assessment used to determine English proficiency.
- **Must my child participate in the ESL Program?**
Any student identified as Limited English Proficient, must be provided with ESL instruction until she/he is English proficient. ESL is considered a core program that replaces or supplements language arts.
- **How long will my child be in the program?**
Students continue to participate in the ESL Program until they are proficient in understanding, speaking, reading and writing English. Proficiency is determined by their performance on a formal language assessment and their classroom success.
- **When my child is in ESL what will they miss?**
If possible students are pulled from language arts at the elementary level. Whenever possible, secondary students are pulled from English class.
- **Is ESL instruction graded?**
Elementary ESL is not graded; however the ESL specialist will collaborate with the classroom teacher to prepare reports. At the intermediate and high school, ESL is a grade course. All parents of ESL students receive a quarterly progress report. High school students receive graduation credit for participating in ESL.
- **Will limited English proficiency affect my child's grade level placement or promotion?**
English language learners are placed in classrooms with children who are similar in age. The principal will determine placement, if factors other than English proficiency must be considered.

The East Stroudsburg Area School District hires only individuals legally authorized to work in the United States and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in the admission of access to, or in the provision of services, programs or employment.

East Stroudsburg Area School District

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ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Celebrating diversity... as we prepare for the future



East Stroudsburg Area School District, helping students to learn and to be creative, productive, and responsible citizens for a continually changing world.