

Wood Acres Elementary School

ESOL Parent Information

An introduction to what
EVERY EL Parent should
know about the MCPS
ESOL Program & **English
Language Learners**

YOUR WOOD ACRES ESOL TEAM:

ESOL Teachers

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Grades 1, 2, 4, and 5

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Grades K and 3

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Grades K and 3

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301-320-6502

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Warm Up

- How many WAES Students are currently ESOL students? **Approximately 50 students**
- How many ESOL levels are in the elementary school program? **7 levels**
- How many of WAES students are REL students? (Exited ESOL within the last 2 years.) **12**
- How long does it take the average English Language Learner to reach grade-level proficiency in academic English? **5 to 7 years**
- There is a new policy that EL Students should be exited from ESOL after 5 years.

Important Terminology

- **ESOL** = English for Speakers of Other Languages
(recognizing that our students may be learning a 3rd, 4th,
etc. language)
- **EL** = English Learner – student is currently receiving
ESOL services
- **R-EL** = Reclassified English Learner – student has
exited the ESOL program within 2 years
- **LEP** = Limited English Proficiency

ESOL is ...

- mandated by federal law that entitles all EL students to an appropriate English language instructional program
- a series of specialized English language, literature and composition courses taught by educators certified in second language acquisition education
- preparing recent immigrant students to assimilate into the American culture & education system
- giving the students the language they need to know in order to be successful with what's being taught in the classroom

ESOL is not ...

- a special education program; although, some of our students may require special education in addition to ESOL
- a series of classes that teaches “survival English.” ESOL students are expected to pass all assessments.

Question

What do the different ESOL levels look like in Montgomery County elementary schools?

ESOL levels profile

Newcomers: No or very little English

Level 1: Low-Beginner

Level 2: High-Beginner

Level 3: Low-Intermediate

Level 4: High-Intermediate

Level 5: Advanced

Level 10: EL student who does not get ESOL instruction but is still eligible for EL accommodations

Learning English, Step by Step – What Studies Show Us

- **Silent Period**
- **BICS & CALP** – Speaking comes first
 - Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (informal language)
 - Cognitive Academic Language Production (formal language)
- **Listening skills**
 - New sound system for most; new alphabet for some
- **Reading and Writing** – usually one is stronger than the other at first; and gradually develop

Possible ESOL Accommodations

- **Extended Time** on class quizzes, tests, exams and state assessments
- **Small Group**
- **Read part or all of test**
- **Write (Scribe) the student's responses**

The Biggest Challenge for English Learners

Each year, English Learners have to gain more language proficiency than their native-speaking peers in order to catch-up and close “the gap”.

ESOL State Assessment (WIDA)

January 14 – February 15, 2012

- State mandated test of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Given when they enter MCPS and each year in the Spring to determine their current level of English language proficiency (ability)
- Given to any student where another language is spoken at home

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME?

- Check your child's backpack every night, especially the Wednesday Folder.
- For Grades 1 – 5: Check your child's planner for homework.
- Have a specific & quiet place for your child to do their homework.
- Review the homework; and if you have a question or concern send a note or e-mail to the teacher.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME?

- Make sure your child spends some time reading each evening (15 – 20 minutes) in English or in their native language
- Encourage your child to read aloud to you
- Ask your child questions, in English or in their native language, about what they read.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME?

There are some wonderful websites for your children to practice vocabulary or math:

www.starfall.com - for reading & vocabulary

www.arcademicskillbuilders.com – for math

(Other websites listed on handout in folder)

HOW TO CONTACT A TEACHER?

- Wood Acres ESOL staff e-mail addresses:
jessica_l_goldstein@mcpsmd.org
elisa_r_cohen@mcpsmd.org
beverly_h_brennan@mcpsmd.org

If you do not have computer access, you can send a note with your child, or call and leave a message at the WAES Main Office – 301-320-6502.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

GOOD ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL

- Be sure your child comes to school **EVERY DAY** and **ON TIME**
- Please make doctor appointments before or after school, whenever possible
- Please do not plan any extended family trips during the school calendar days **ESPECIALLY January 14 – March 15 (WIDA and MSA testing)**
- Send students dressed appropriately for the seasons

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

If your child is absent:

- **Call the school first thing in the morning**
- **Send a note the next day, if absent 1 or 2 days**
- **Send a doctor's note if absent for 3 days or more**

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP?

VERY, VERY IMPORTANT

Please send to the school any changes to contact information, such as:

- Home or cell phone numbers
- Move – change of address
- Parent work numbers
- Emergency contact's information

Parent/School Connection

- Communication between parents & staff
- Join the PTA & attend all school activities
- Connect Ed – Be sure to listen to all the messages sent by the school
- Volunteer in any way you can at school

What resources are available in the community to support you?

- Public Libraries
- After-school Clubs
- George B. Thomas Saturday School
- Adult Education English classes

Where are the closest public libraries for the Wood Acres community?

Little Falls Library

5501 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816

Tel. 240-773-9520

Bethesda Library

7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

Tel. 240-777-09470

Hours for both libraries: Mon. - Thurs. – 9 am – 9 pm;
Fri, & Sat. 10 am – 6 pm; Sunday – 12 pm-5pm



THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS EVENING!

The best way to help your child succeed in school is to have a strong partnership between school & home.