



Questions Most Often Asked

1. What is ESOL?

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) is a special program of English language instruction designed to help non-English speakers acquire English.

2. How is it different from the regular language arts program?

ESOL uses special instructional strategies to teach the English Language Learner (ELL) student the new sounds, grammar and vocabulary of English through the Language Arts curriculum.

3. Is ESOL different from ESL?

No. The acronyms refer to the same type of program of second language instruction. ESOL stands for English for Speakers of Other Languages.

4. What is the difference between ESOL and bilingual education?

ESOL does not include instruction in the home language. Bilingual education has two tracks, ESOL and home language instruction (particularly in the content areas).

5. How long does it take a non-native speaker to learn English?

Research indicates it takes 1-1/2 to 2 years to learn social forms of English and 3 to 5 years to learn academic English.

6. What is the Home Language survey?

It is a survey that is used to identify potential limited English proficient students. It is located on the Seminole County Public Schools Entry form. The questions are:

Is a language other than English used in the home?

Does the student have a first language other than English?

Does the student most frequently speak a language other than English?

7. Does the school have to ask for parents' permission to test their children?

No. The school is required by law to test any student for English proficiency during the first 20 days in school.

8. Does the school have to notify parents if their children need help with English?

Yes. The school must notify the parent within the first four weeks of school.



9. Does the school have to ask for parents' permission to place their children in ESOL?

No. The parents must be notified of their child's classification as ELL no later than four weeks after initial enrollment of the child. Parents are given information about the program opportunities and may discuss options with the school. The final decision about how to classify the child, however, is up to the school.

10. If parents don't want their child to participate in the ESOL program, can they refuse placement?

No. The student must be served for at least one semester, before the ELL committee meets to discuss reclassifying the student.

11. Can the parent refuse placement in an ESOL center?

A parent may refuse transportation to an ESOL center, but the parent may not refuse placement in ESOL.

12. Does the school have to notify parents of their child's progress in the ESOL program?

The child's progress will be reported to parents through the regular report card procedure. However, parents may request a conference with the child's teacher at any time.