

Elementary ESL Program Overview

The Elementary ESL program accelerates English language acquisition using sheltered instruction, a method of making content comprehensible for English language learners. The goal of the ESL program is to develop English language proficiency while supporting grade-level academic instruction. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary expansion, written and oral communication, reading comprehension, and attentive listening.

The Home Language Survey and the results of the English Language Proficiency Assessment are utilized to determine if a student meets the criteria for identification as an English learner. Students remain in ESL until exit criteria is achieved by demonstrating English proficiency on Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) and the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR).

What is Sheltered Instruction?

Sheltered instruction is an approach to instruction for English learners. English learners receive comprehensible input about content area subject matter while developing English language proficiency.

What are Linguistic Accommodations?

Linguistic accommodations are made during instruction to meet the needs of English learners. Some accommodations focus on ways to make content more comprehensible for English learners. Other accommodations address ways to facilitate English language development for English learners.

Katy ISD provides teachers of English learners with the Accommodations Checklist for Elementary ESL. This checklist is reviewed each grading period to ensure that students receive appropriate accommodations based on language proficiency level.

What is an ESL ISST?

ESL ISSTs are Instructional Support Specialty Teachers. These teachers serve as an additional resource for ESL students and for content area teachers who serve English learners in their classrooms. Some responsibilities of ESL ISSTs include:

- serving as collaborative teachers in content area classrooms to provide additional instructional intensity
- providing focused, targeted, and systematic small-group instruction to English learners at the beginning and intermediate levels of language proficiency
- serving as a member of the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC)

How are students assessed in the ESL program?

Students are assessed through the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS). The Texas Education Agency developed TELPAS to meet state and federal testing requirements. Texas assesses English learners annually in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. For more information, please visit the Texas Education Agency website for TELPAS.

What is the Instructional Model for Elementary ESL?

Katy ISD offers a combination of pull-out and content-based instruction for ESL. All Katy ISD students participating in the ESL program will learn English through content-based instruction. For more information about the instructional model, please refer to the Instructional Model for Elementary ESL.