

## ESL WELCOME CENTER

At the ESL Welcome Center, students are tested for possible placement in the ESL program. If the student qualifies for program services based on the initial assessment, the parent / guardian must sign a Permission to Enroll in ESL form. Once the Permission to Enroll in ESL form is signed, the ESL Assessment Specialist will assign the student to an ESL site and refer the family to that site to finalize the registration process.

The ESL Welcome Center Registrar will continue the NNPS initial registration process that began at the zoned school; however, the finalized and verified registration will take place at the student's designated school after the initial language assessment.

If the student qualifies for ESL program services but the parent / guardian refuses services, the parent / guardian must sign a Refusal of Services form. The student will be assigned to his/her zoned school to complete the registration process.

If the student does not qualify for ESL program services based on the initial assessment data, the ESL Assessment Specialist will assign the student to the zoned school and refer the family to that site to finalize the registration process.

The ESL Welcome Center is located at the Watkins Early Childhood Center on 21 Burns Drive, Newport News, VA. You may contact the Welcome Center at (757) 283-7823 between 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Monday –Friday. Se habla Español.

## IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS

NNPS identifies students to participate in the ESL program based on the federal government definition of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students as described in Public Law 107-110, the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

An LEP student is classified as one:

- A. Who is age 3 – 21.
- B. Who is enrolled in an elementary school or secondary school
- C. Who was not born in the United States or whose native language is other than English; and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant....AND
- D. Whose difficulties speaking, reading, writing or understanding English may be sufficient to deny the individual:
  1. The ability to meet the state's proficient level of achievement on State assessments
  2. The ability to achieve successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or
  3. The opportunity to fully participate in society.

[P.L. 107-110, Title IX, Part A, Sec. 9101, (25)]



**ESL:**  
**English as a**  
**Second Language**

**(757) 591-4680**

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## **ESL – English as a Second Language**

The ESL program of Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) serves culturally and linguistically diverse students whose native language is not English. The objective of the program is to provide students with the English and academic skills they need to be successful, active participants in the local community.

### **Sites & Services**

The English as a Second Language program in Newport News Public Schools involves instruction for English Language learners pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

#### First Step

The First Step ESL program is at all four sites, with three ESL teachers servicing all ESL First Step students. The ESL students spend the majority of their day with the First Step teacher. ESL teachers pull small groups of students as well as provide language support in the classroom by collaborating with the First Step teachers. The First Step program is for 4 year olds.

#### Elementary School

The elementary school ESL program is at all 25 schools. ESL teachers travel to students for language support. Students are serviced by an ESL teacher and assigned a homeroom with a general education teacher. Students receive language acquisition support based on their English language proficiency level. Students with lower levels of English receive

more intensive language instruction. The more advanced students stay in the general education classroom the majority of the day with the ESL teacher providing assistance as needed. Testing and placement of English language proficiency determines how often and for how long each student receives services by the ESL teacher.

#### Middle School

Middle school students receive ESL program services at two designated sites, Dozier and Gildersleeve. Students attend the site closest to their home address. Middle school students have ESL as a part of their schedule of classes. ESL classes are scheduled by English proficiency level. The students who are designated as “Level 1 Entering” or “Level 2 Beginning” spend the majority of their day with the ESL teacher. Those students who are considered “Level 3 Developing” – “Level 5 Bridging” spend the majority of their day in core content classes.

#### High School

The high school ESL program is at two sites, Denbigh and Warwick. Students attend the school closest to their home address. High school ESL students are placed according to their English ability. The “Level 1 Entering” and “Level 2 Beginning” students have class with their ESL teacher for two blocks per day. The “Level 3 Developing” – “Level 5 Bridging” students have class with their ESL teacher every other day.

#### TAG & Special Education

English Language Learners (ELL’s) receiving Talented and Gifted services (TAG) or Special Education services are also eligible to receive ESL program services based on their registration and assessment data.

### **English Language Proficiency Level (ELP)**

There are a total of six proficiency levels. A description of the levels is available from the ESL Office. Students at levels 1-5 are LEP and receive program services. The program monitors the academic success of level 6 students for two years.

<b>K-12 ELP Levels</b>
Level 1– Entering
Level 2– Beginning
Level 3– Developing
Level 4– Expanding
Level 5– Bridging
Level 6– Reaching (Monitor status)

### **Length of Time in ESL Program**

Our goal is for each student to advance at least one level each year; however, some students may take longer and others will move more quickly. Research shows that achieving academic proficiency in English takes 7 – 10 years for students who have not studied in their first language and 4 – 7 years for students who have had education in their first language. Some high school students may take longer than 4 years to complete their graduation requirements.

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