

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

What is English as a Second Language (ESL) Support?

All Jeffco schools offer ESL support to the more than 5000 English Learners in our district who speak more than 100 languages. ESL staff provide additional instructional services to children who speak or understand more than one language to ensure academic success in their grade level classrooms. ESL Staff use specific strategies to support English language development (listening, speaking, reading and writing), in all content areas: literacy, math, social studies, science and electives.

Goals of Jeffco's ESL Program

- English Learners will be at or above grade level in all content areas.
- English Learners will develop high levels of academic English language proficiency.
- The ESL/Dual Language staff promote cultural awareness and family involvement and help bridge home and school cultures.



Benefits of ESL Support

- A majority of English Learners who score proficient or advanced on the annual Colorado English Language Proficiency (CELApro) Test perform as high or higher on state achievement tests than their native English-speaking peers (Jeffco CSAP data).
- English Learners participate more successfully in their learning experiences because the English language instructional support they receive allows them to understand and accomplish the same grade level expectations as their native English-speaking peers.
- Students gain knowledge of their own culture as well as the cultures of others through interactions with a broad variety of people and cultural perspectives (Miramontes, Nadeau, Commins, 2011).

What might English language instructional support from the ESL Staff look like?

At the secondary level:

- There are specific ESL courses that are designed to meet the students' English language development needs.
- All courses follow a curriculum and include appropriate materials and assessments.
- ESL Teachers may partner with math, science, social studies and English language arts content area teachers to ensure that students are able to meet grade level expectations.

At the elementary level:

- ESL Staff partner with classroom teachers to ensure that students are able to meet grade level expectations.
- ESL Staff provide small group instruction for specialized English language needs.



Dual Language Programs

Jeffco Schools offers Dual Language Education in seven schools. The language of instruction is in English and Spanish. Parents have the right to choose an ESL or Dual Language Education program not available at your school.

Please contact the schools directly for more specific information. The schools are: Arvada K-8 (7th & 8th only), Edgewater, Eiber, Foster, Lumberg, Molholm, and Stein Elementary Schools.



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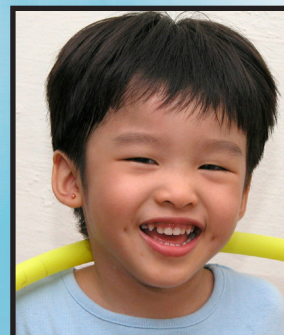
Families, we encourage you to speak your home language and celebrate your culture with your children. A strong home language leads to English language success.



"A vision that affirms the importance of family is based, in part, on the belief that students from all backgrounds arrive at school with a wealth of experiences, conceptual knowledge, and strategies for learning."

—Miramontes, Nadeau, Commins, 2011

English as a Second Language and Dual Language Department 2011-12



"Our nation can only grow stronger if all our children grow up learning two languages. I can assure you when they enter the workforce in several years, we will regret the inability of our children to speak two languages. Our global economy demands it; our children deserve it."

*— Richard W. Riley,
Former U.S. Secretary of Education*