

ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) EDUCATION PROGRAM

Federal and state laws require that all students who use a language other than English in their home be screened for proficiency in English as prescribed by state guidelines. Students who qualify for services as a result of the screening can enroll in one of five levels of English for ELs based on their score. English courses for ELs promote the improvement of the listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills with an emphasis on both traditional academic skills and functional literacy skills. Additionally, the EL classes provide instruction and experiences intended to help students adapt to American culture. The program also monitors students in their regular classes, providing help and support where necessary.

If the population of any language group is sufficient, the District will also offer a bilingual program. Bilingual education classes offer native language instruction in content courses required for graduation.

EL and bilingual classes receive credit equal to corresponding mainstream classes and meet the mainstream graduation requirements.

English Learner Courses are offered based on enrollment.

ESL ENGLISH AND ENGLISH SUPPORT COURSES

ESL 1 (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: WAPT/ACCESS score

Qualifies for: English Credit

ESL 1 integrates the study of language and communication for language learners who are new to the English language. Survival and basic vocabulary banks are built through thematic units that emphasize phonics, decoding, reading, and writing. Outcomes for this course focus on basic beginning language acquisition skills, such as speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Language and vocabulary is developed in order to prepare students for the next level of English learning.

ESL 1 LAB (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Corequisite: ESL 1

ESL 1 Lab is taken in conjunction with our ESL 1 English course and allows students extra time to develop the language skills needed in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

ESL 2 (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: ESL 1 or WAPT/ACCESS score

Qualifies for: English Credit

ESL 2 integrates the study of language and communication for language learners with a beginning level of language proficiency. Literature is explored to build basic literacy skills with a focus on vocabulary building. Writing assignments focus on the production of grammatically correct sentences and basic paragraphs. Outcomes for this course focus on beginning language acquisition skills, such as grammar and vocabulary; reading strategies that focus on comprehension and interpretation; writing activities that build language production and expression; listening and speaking opportunities. Language and vocabulary is developed in order to prepare students for the next level of English learning.

ESL 2 LAB (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Corequisite: ESL 2

ESL 2 Lab is taken in conjunction with our ESL 2 English course and allows students extra time to develop the language skills needed in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

ESL 3 (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: ESL 2 or WAPT/ACCESS score

Qualifies for: English Credit

ESL 3 integrates the study of language and communication for language learners with an intermediate level of language proficiency. Literature is explored through teacher

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and student led efforts that focus on literacy skills and vocabulary building. Writing assignments include essays, journaling, and creative writing. Outcomes for this course focus on intermediate language acquisition skills, such as grammar and vocabulary; reading strategies that focus on the elements of literature; writing activities that apply these skills; listening and speaking opportunities. Language and vocabulary is developed in order to prepare students for the next level of English learning.

ESL 3 LAB (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Corequisite: ESL 3

ESL 3 Lab is taken in conjunction with our ESL 3 English course and allows students extra time to develop the language skills needed in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

ESL 4 (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: ESL 3 or WAPT/ACCESS score

Qualifies for: English Credit

ESL 4 English integrates the study of language and communication. A variety of literature is explored by genre: short story, novel, and nonfiction. Writing assignments include journaling, formal essays (expository, persuasive, narrative), and creative writing. Outcomes for this course focus on specific skills in reading and interpreting literature; writing a variety of well-constructed compositions; thinking critically; managing information and technology; organizing time and study skills; speaking and listening; and personal skills.

ESL COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Qualifies for: Communication Studies Credit

Communication Studies is designed to improve the student's research, organization, analysis, writing, speaking, and listening skills. A variety of communication experiences will be studied and performed as the major focus of the course. The skills mastered in this course are applied throughout

the entire high school curriculum. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL READING 1 (I)

Length: Multiple Semesters

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Qualifies for: General Elective Credit Only

ESL Reading 1 is intended for students who are assessed as either pre-readers or current non-readers of English. Reading skills are first assessed. Individualized reading interventions are then designed for the purpose of moving students through the decoding of English words, learning English vocabulary, and reading for fluency, automaticity, and comprehension in the target language. Computer-based, whole-group, and skills-based group instruction targets the acquisition and practice of reading skills for success in high school.

ESL READING 2 (I)

Length: Multiple Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

Qualifies for: General Elective Credit Only

ESL Reading is intended to expand academic and general vocabulary acquisition, accelerate and deepen reading comprehension, employ critical thinking through the use of strategic reading strategies, and advance the reading fluency and automaticity of English language learners. Students are required to read both fiction and nonfiction materials, especially those related to high school critical content. Readings are offered at both the students' current reading levels and at instructional reading levels. Students will expand vocabulary through practice with Latin and Greek roots.

Fluency, automaticity, and comprehension are practiced via appropriately-leveled fiction and nonfiction text for the purpose of achieving high school success and increasing interest in reading for lifelong learning.

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ESL STUDY SKILLS (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: ESL 4 or WAPT/ACCESS score

ESL Study Skills is designed to support advanced language learners in their general education English and content area classes. Students focus on organization skills, goal setting, personal accountability, communication with teachers, and resourcefulness. Outcomes for this course focus on bridging any language gaps that may still exist for ELs who are close to exiting the EL program.

ESL MATH COURSES

ESL GENERAL MATH 1 (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

The topics covered include: converting forms of expressions and equations, understanding number values, basic operations, ratios, measurement, balancing equations, and data analysis. Modeling and mathematical language will be emphasized throughout this course. This course is meant for students with limited educational background or limited language proficiency.

ESL GENERAL MATH 2 (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

The topics covered include: operations, proportions and ratios, angles, shapes, balancing equations, algebraic properties, expressions with and without variables, and data analysis. Modeling and mathematical language will be emphasized throughout this course. This course is meant for students with limited educational background or limited language proficiency.

ESL PRE-ALGEBRA (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

The topics covered include: the structure of expressions with and without variables, operations, solving equations, proportions and percentages,

exponents, factoring and functions, linear equations and inequalities, and graphing linear functions. Modeling and mathematical language will be emphasized throughout this course. This course is meant for students with limited educational background or limited language proficiency.

ESL SCIENCE COURSES

ESL BIOLOGY (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grade: 9

Prerequisite: None

This course is subject to a consumable fee

Biology includes an in-depth study of the scientific way of knowing and the definition of "life" from a scientific vantage point. Topics include the chemical nature of life, the cellular composition of all-living things, genetics, ecology, and biotechnology. The second semester surveys scientific theories on the diversification of life, classification of organisms, human systems, and the interaction of humans and other biota within the biosphere. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL CHEMISTRY (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course is subject to a consumable fee.

Chemistry I level is a laboratory-based course that includes topics such as the structure of matter, chemical reactions, and energy. Major topics covered include: the structure of matter, chemical change and chemical reactions, energy, and acid/base interactions. Students will utilize learning approaches that include hands-on work, reading strategies, and written expression. Students should be prepared to do hands-on laboratory activities, complete daily homework, work cooperatively with others, and use scientific reasoning and problem solving. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

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ESL PHYSICS (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course is subject to a consumable fee.

Physics gives students an understanding of major concepts of physics in a laboratory setting. An understanding of algebra is required to solve problems presented in this course. Topics include: forces, energy, motion, waves, light, and electricity. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

ESL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisite: U.S. History

The American Government course is dedicated to an extensive overview of the American Democracy. Students will learn of the extraordinary circumstances pertaining to the perpetuation of our republic, and its ongoing evolution. Areas of study include: Foundation of American Government, Three Branches of Government, Political Parties, and the election process. This class is a forum for the presentation of facts. All students will be encouraged to make his/her own political decisions. There will also be frequent discussions and student generated presentations of current political issues and events. Students successfully completing this course will meet graduation requirements in American government, including Illinois statutes pertaining to patriotism and principles of representative government. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL GENERAL SOCIAL STUDIES (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

All students need to be prepared to live as global citizens. They need to acquire knowledge of the diverse people with whom they share this world. Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the contributions that diverse civilizations and cultures have had throughout history and the impact that they had on the

development of democratic ideals. They will learn the academic, critical thinking, interpersonal and communication skills that will assist them in becoming responsible and productive citizens. The class hopes to develop a spirit of inquiry that will enhance their understanding of the world so they will become informed, rational, humane, participating and effective members of our democratic society and global culture.

ESL UNITED STATES HISTORY (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10, 11

Prerequisite: None

United States History provides an expansive overview of the settlement, development, and continuing political, economic, and cultural evolution of the United States. Emphasis is placed on significant political events, leaders, foreign relations, economics, and social change in each period under study. Connections of historical events to present U.S. and international situations are also stressed. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (I)

Length: Two Semesters

Grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

World Civilizations introduces students to the study of the history of the world as it relates to the present. Through a comparative study of major world civilizations and their evolution, students construct a narrative of the human experience. Case studies throughout the course will focus on how the decisions of the past account for the present circumstances in the world. Emphasis is placed on skills that enable students to accumulate evidence, develop comparative and causal analyses, interpret historical records, and construct sound historical interpretations on which informed decisions in contemporary scenarios can be applied. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

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ESL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS COURSES

ESL HEALTH (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Health is a district requirement for graduation completed during the sophomore year. Topics are divided into three units of study that include mental health, drugs and substance abuse, and human relationships. Each unit includes assigned readings, classroom lecture and discussion, and regular homework assignments. The course challenges students to think critically, by developing problem solving and decision-making skills that enhance personal health choices. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL RTE (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course is subject to a consumable fee.

Responding to Emergencies (RTE) instructs students about the fundamentals of first-aid, the required skills for cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification, and the most current practice in how to respond to physical, life threatening emergencies. In addition to emergency care lessons, the course emphasizes the value of a safe and healthy lifestyle in preventing injury and illness. The course includes lecture, discussion, and training simulations of emergency situations. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES

ESL COMPUTER LITERACY (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Qualifies for: Applied Technology Credit

Computer Literacy provides students with an introductory opportunity to develop computer, word processing, and business document communication skills. Concepts and skills that are

developed in this class include, but are not limited to the following: keyboarding techniques, proofreading accuracy, increased productivity, and correct document formatting according to business standards, various input technologies, and information retrieval skills. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.

ESL CONSUMER EDUCATION (I)

Length: One Semester

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

This course meets the Consumer Education requirement as outlined by the State of Illinois. Consumer Education provides information about our economic system, the nature of capitalism, the consumer's function within free-market economies, and personal finance management. The purpose of the course is to assist students to become informed citizens, equipped with knowledge about their consumer rights. Students learn to make intelligent choices related to money management, credit rights and responsibilities, credit management, and various other aspects of personal finance. This course is modified to provide additional language support for our English language learners.