

**This is a parent information document of
alternative services for parents who opt out of
ESL services child**

Refusal and Opting Out procedures for English Language Learners

Parents have the right to refuse for their child to receive ESL services or have their child opt-out of the program **any time** upon their request. This means that a parent or guardian is choosing to deny their child's continued entry into Washington County's ESL program and wishes to immediately remove the child from a language instruction educational program. The **Refusal form** must be signed by parents if they wish to refuse services or opt-out their child in order to make this official.

When parents/guardians refuse or opt-out their student from ESL program services, districts are still obligated to provide alternative assistance for these students such as reading specialists or content tutoring. Because of this, when a parent declines their child's participation in a formal language instruction program, the district will continue to monitor the progress of the student to ensure that the student has an equal opportunity to have his or her English language and academic needs met.

Federal law establishes a school division's obligation to provide LEP students with meaningful access to the education program. Students opted out of the ESL program will continue to be monitored by the ESL department and be tested annually using the WIDA ACCESS test to monitor language proficiency progress until the student has reached the level 6, which is monitor status. Once the opt-out student has reached level 6, monitoring will take place for 4 years. Parents have the right to re-enroll student in ESL services at any time based upon eligibility.

Parents who decline to enroll their child in ESL services, either by refusal or opt-out, have the option to have their child access an alternate instructional program or method of instruction, if available. ESL instructors are available to assist parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction offered by Washington County.

Additional ESL methods of instruction to consider (an alternative to opt-out):

- Weekly consultation with an ESL instructor
- Inclusion/push-in services within the regular content classroom

Additional School system-wide programs

All students, regardless of English proficiency, may participate in the following programs if determined eligible:

- Gifted and Talented Program (GATE) (eligible students)
- Title I (eligible students) including -Kindergarten Intervention or Reading Recovery
- Reading Specialist services
- Content area tutoring / Project Graduation tutoring

ESL Program Benefits

The goal of the ESL Program is to help ESL students gain English language proficiency so they can meet state and federal grade level academic standards for grade promotions, graduation, and English language proficiency requirements. ESL instruction develops listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills within a content-based framework. ESL instructors provide a variety of specialized services until the student demonstrates sufficient language proficiency to insure academic success in the regular classroom. Parents who opt-out of services for their child may re-enroll the student in direct ESL instruction at any time. Those who would like to reconsider ESL services in an alternate method than pull-out direct instruction may choose from those listed above.

The school division will keep parents advised of their child's progress. If the parent objects to his/her child receiving services, the ESL teacher will meet with the parent and explain the program and its advantages to the student. If the parent still objects, the student will not be placed in the ESL Program. In such cases, the ESL teacher must have the parent sign the Refusal of ESL Services form (**Refusal of Services - Appendix E**). If a refusal of services form is signed, the ESL Teacher and regular classroom teacher will monitor student's progress each quarter (**Appendix M -- Monitor of Services**). If a parent refuses services or chooses to opt-out the student, this does not change the child's LEP status. Parents have the option to change their minds at any time and request that their child NOT receive services.