



English Learner Services

Who Are English Learners?

The Ohio Department of Education defines a student who is an English learner as one who has a primary or home language other than English and needs special language assistance to effectively participate in school. Ohio's public school districts are required to identify and serve students who are English learners.

Identification of English Learners

The Forest Hills School District registration process includes Ohio's Language Usage Survey. After identifying potential English learners with the Language Usage Survey, these students' English language proficiency is assessed by a district ESL instructor using the [Ohio English Language Proficiency Screener](#) (OELPS). This screener assesses students' proficiency in four domains: reading, writing, listening and speaking. For students transferring from other school districts, prior identification documentation can be used to determine eligibility for services.

English Language Development Plan (EL Plan)

Using guidelines from the Ohio Department of Education, each student is provided an individual plan for success, called an English Language Development Plan. This includes identification information, allowable accommodations and modifications, and language goals. These goals are based on the [Ohio English Language Proficiency Standards](#). Each student's plan is updated annually.

Services

Forest Hills uses a combination of educational approaches to best meet the needs of English learners in the district.

- ESL classes
- In-class instruction
- Pull-out content support
- SIOP trained classroom teachers
- Individualized online language instructional programs

Annual Assessment

Each spring, English learners take the [Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment](#) (OELPA). Students receive a numeric performance level for each of the four test domains: reading, writing, listening and speaking. The performance levels on each of the four domains are used to determine an overall performance level. There are three overall performance levels established: Proficient, Progressing, and Emerging.

Exiting Services

Students exit from receiving services when their scores on the OELPA indicate they have achieved the needed level of English proficiency to advance in classroom academics without additional language supports.

ESL Staff

ESL Coordinator

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ESL Teachers

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Resources

For Parents

- [Ohio Department of Education](#)
- [Colorín Colorado](#)

For Teachers

- [Ohio Department of Education](#)
- [Colorín Colorado](#)