Corry Area School District

English as a Second Language (ESL) Services

What is the ESL program?

The mission of the ESL program is to provide support and instruction in the English language and academic areas for English Language Learners (ELLs), which will enable them to become successful in the mainstream classroom, the schools, and the community.

Who is eligible for ESL?

All students in the Corry Area School District who first spoke, or speak, languages other than English, or come from homes where languages other than English are spoken, as determined by the Home Language Survey, will be given the WAPT to determine eligibility for ESL instruction.

What are the goals and objectives of the ESL program?

The goals and objectives of the ESL program are to provide appropriate instruction and support services to enable students to achieve English proficiency and the academic standards as established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This includes instruction in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural norms that support the learning of English as well as content relevant vocabulary and concepts are taught where appropriate. Students can then achieve proficient language development and academic skills.

What is the process for ESL services?

When a new student enrolls with the Corry Area School District, in addition to other registration forms, the parent/guardian also completes the Home Language Survey. This form is required by the state of Pennsylvania for all newly enrolled students. The Home Language Survey includes four questions pertaining to a student's language. All students whose first language is other than English, or who come from homes where languages other than English are spoken, are eligible for screening for ESL services.

Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5, with whom ESL services are contracted, then screen the student using the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) within 14 days of the student's start date. The four language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are assessed in English. The results are used to determine a student's English language proficiency level and to see if the student qualifies for ESL services. Log on to http://www.wida.us/assessment/w-apt/index.aspx to learn more about the W-APT placement test.

Students who qualify for services will receive direct instruction individually or in small groups on a daily basis. Students at the entering or emerging levels are generally "pulled out" of the classroom for instruction while students at a higher level will be instructed/supported in the general education classroom. Students are not pulled out of the core content classes. The extent of direct services will depend upon the assessed student's needs and state-established guidelines for ESL instruction. Instruction will follow an available planned course for English as a Second Language, utilizing strategies and techniques appropriate for ELLs. ESL instructors are knowledgeable in teaching students who are culturally and linguistically diverse. The ESL instructor will collaborate with the student's teacher(s) throughout the course of services to maximize student progress. In addition to communication with the student's classroom teacher(S), progress is monitored on a regular basis using the following methods of daily instruction: student work, assessments, student/parent input, grades, quarterly progress report

documents and progress in the four domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. ESL students participate in Pennsylvania state mandated assessments such as the PSSA and Keystone exams, and local testing such as ScanTron and DRA, at various grade levels.

Each school year, the language proficiency of an ESL student is determined using a standardized state assessment called the WIDA-ACCESS. This test, which assesses the four language domains, is taken by all ELLs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at all proficiency levels. It is used to monitor a student's English proficiency growth from one school year to the next, as well as to determine a student's eligibility for exiting the program. The assessment is broken down into three tiers: A, B, and C. If a student scores a 5.0 on tier C of the WIDA-ACCESS, he/she is considered for possible exit from the ESL program. The instructor then monitors the progress and evaluates the student's program quarterly by using the post-exit ELL monitoring form. This form is designed to be used for the two year monitoring period. Information is collected from multiple criteria including ACCESS, PSSA, special services, report card grades, and student performance. To learn more about the exit criteria for ESL, please visit http://www.pattan.net/files/Memos/Pennlink081707.pdf

Communication with parents/guardians of ESL students is foremost in the provision of ESL services. When a teacher needs to contact a parent/guardian who does not speak English, a translator/interpreter will be provided. The parent/guardian is encouraged to contact the ESL teacher as well as the classroom teacher(s) regularly for progress reports. If a recommendation to reclassify a student is going to be considered, the parent/guardian would be invited to a team meeting to discuss the data and documentation for why this reclassification is being considered.

Where can I get additional information about ESL services?

Please contact Susan Barra, Supervisor of Vocational Education at 814-664-4677, ext. 3134 or sbarra@corrysd.net for additional information, including a pdf of Pennsylvania's ESL standards and state policy.

Additional websites include:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/english as a second language/7529

Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of Education
 http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL)
http://www.tesol.org

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA)
http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA)
(A Glossary of terms related to the education of linguistically and culturally diverse students)
http://www.ncela.gwu.edu/expert/glossary.html

Ethnologue Languages of the World
*(*An encyclopedic reference work cataloging all of the world's 6,912 known living languages)
http://www.ethnologue.com/

National Association for Bilingual Education
http://www.nabe.org