

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School
Policy S27: English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction
Adopted: October 22, 2020

Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter school aspire for all English Learners to graduate high school eager and prepared for continued academic pursuits.

- I. English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction will provide inclusive classrooms that are responsive to the linguistic and cultural needs of English Learners and their families. ESOL instruction is a standards-based curriculum emphasizing academic and social language development.
- II. Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter will offer ESOL coursework based upon the following goals:
 - a. To develop competency in English in all four domains of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing;
 - b. To integrate language, cognitive and academic instruction that enables students to develop English language proficiency and content area knowledge;
 - c. To support the curriculum based on the Georgia Standards of Excellence while emphasizing social and academic language proficiency;
 - d. To orient students and parents to the American culture and enable them to participate successfully in school and community life;
 - e. To ensure grade-level appropriate content for all ELs regardless of English proficiency level;
 - f. To ensure that all staff in the district assume responsibility for the acculturation and instruction of ELs and instruction of EL's and immigrant students.
- III. Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter will work to identify children in need of ESOL instruction in accordance with the guidelines published by the Georgia Department of Education. The Guidelines indicate the following classes students may benefit from ESOL instruction:
 - a. Students whose native/home/first language is a language other than English
 - b. Students who have difficulty listening, speaking, reading, writing or understanding the English language and their language skills are a barrier to their success in a regular classroom.
- IV. Southwest Georgia S.T.E.M. Charter Parents will complete The Home Language Survey (HLS) for his/her child when registering. This survey helps to determine if a student's environment is influenced by a language other than English. The survey seeks information on the languages that are:
 - a. most frequently spoken in the home by adults
 - b. most frequently spoken in the home by the student
 - c. currently understood or spoken by the student
 - d. preferred for notices of school activities sent home
- V. Students identified by the survey or other suspected of benefiting from ESOL instruction shall be screened with the state-adopted proficiency test, the

WIDA-ACCESS for ELLs Placement Test (W-APT). This screening will take place within the first 30 days of the first day of the new school year for all identified students or within 30 days of the registration date of the student if after the school year has begun, or within 10 days of referral if referred by a teacher suspecting limited English proficiency.

- VI. Within 30 calendar days of placement of a student in a language instruction educational program at the beginning of the school year, parents will be notified of the placement and receive notice of their right to decline or opt their children out of the school's ESOL program or specific services within that program. If the placement occurs during the school year, the parent must be notified of the placement in a language instruction educational program within 2 weeks of placement.
- VII. Upon attainment of English language proficiency, as measured by the "ACCESS for ELLs 2.0" assessment, EL students shall exit from language support services.