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## *The English language*

*instruction* provided to all pupils

aligns with the Colorado K-12 ESL standards

and the DCSD Language Arts standards.

Our mission is to provide the English

language instruction needed for each

student to reach grade level proficiency in

speaking, reading and writing. Develop-

ment of English language proficiency

varies from one child to another and can

take from three to ten years to achieve.

Our goal is for each second language

learner to be able to learn any subject in

the regular classroom.



*In partnership* with The Parent University™, we also provide beginning English classes for parents within our community. These classes are scheduled in the evening at local high schools. Contact Debby Novotny, 303-387-0128, for more information about adult ESL courses.

ESL parents are involved in goal setting meetings each year for their students. Interpreters are provided as needed.

Some elementary schools organize after-school study hall time for second language learners, with student and adult volunteers from the community. These activities have become very popular, providing a relaxed atmosphere where students work together and learn from each other.

**ESL**  
*English*  
as a Second Language



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The English as a Second Language Program (ESL) in Douglas County School District (DCSD) is designed to provide intensive English language instruction to all second language learners in all grades. We do not have a bilingual program.

The past four years have seen the number of English language learners more than triple. Almost 700 ESL students, who speak 36 different languages, are enrolled. Spanish, Korean, Russian and Chinese are the most common languages spoken by ESL participants.

### *Structured immersion*

is the approach used in Douglas County schools and allows the second language learner to participate in regular classes for most of the day and still receive ESL support. Elementary students work with ESL teachers during intensive English instruction in a pullout program. Instruction is provided in English only. Middle and high school students attend a separate ESL class as part of their daily schedule.

State and federal laws require students who speak a language other than English at home to be tested when they enroll in school. The results of the test determine which children qualify to participate in the ESL program.

At the elementary level, certified teachers provide instruction at various elementary schools in Highlands Ranch, Castle Rock, and Parker. When ESL instruction is not provided at a child's home school, the child is enrolled at the nearest elementary school with ESL instruction. This school becomes the child's home school, complete with bus transportation. A personal language plan for each second language learner, based on his or her language level, guides instruction.



In middle and high school, students are also tested and offered ESL classes in place of regular English classes in their home schools. Counselors and ESL teachers work together to create custom schedules for each student. ESL teachers work closely with classroom teachers to support differentiation of instruction.

### *In November 2003,* the

ESL program presented a report to the Douglas County School District Board of Education to demonstrate how second language learner progress is monitored. The Idea Proficiency Test, which is valid for second language learners throughout the United States, is used to measure annual progress for all students in the program.

These tests revealed that most students made progress in at least one of the areas tested: oral fluency, reading competency, and writing. We are very proud of our second language learners and the progress they continue to make.

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