

## **For Parents of ELLs**

### **What is ESL?**

English as a Second Language is a core curriculum area that provides English language instruction in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing for students whose primary language is not English. Furthermore, it provides the development of English proficiency skills for the language necessary to communicate information, ideas and concepts for each of the content areas.

### **Who are ELLs?**

An ELL, or English Language Learner, is a student who was not born in the U.S., whose first language is not English, or a student who is from a home or background where the primary language is not English.

### **What is the Process for entering the ESL program?**

- A Home Language Survey is given to each student upon registration, which indicates languages spoken at home.
- W-APT\* and other criteria, such as examination of records and/or parent/student interviews, help determine ESL levels and services needed.

### **Methods of Assessing Progress**

- Teacher observations and assessments
- Report cards
- State and district assessments

### **Requirements to Exit the ESL Program**

- A score of Basic or better on the PSSA exam, a state test given to students
- A score of 5.0 on ACCESS for ELLs
- A "C" or better in core subjects

### **Assessments for ELLs**

- **W-APT:** a test given upon entry by SDCT to prospective ELLs to assess English proficiency levels
- **ACCESS for ELLs-** test given every winter by the state to assess proficiency level
- **PSSA** - test given in grades 3 - 8 by the state to assess reading, writing and math skills.

### **How can you help your ELL?**

- Provide a quiet place to study or read
- **Read** with your child in English or in your first language
- Encourage your child to **read** and **write**
- Visit the library
- Communicate with teachers

**Questions? For more information, please contact:**

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**Other helpful links:**

- **Pennsylvania Department of Education's ESL website:** [www.pde.state.pa.us/esl](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/esl)
- [www.owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl/eslstudent.html](http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl/eslstudent.html)
- [www.everythingsl.net/in-services/](http://www.everythingsl.net/in-services/)
- [www.esl.fis.edu/vocab/index.htm](http://www.esl.fis.edu/vocab/index.htm)
- [www.marks-english-school.com/games.html](http://www.marks-english-school.com/games.html)