

# **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAMS:**



**BENEFITS FOR  
YOUR CHILD!**



**For further information  
Please contact:**

**Manor Independent School  
District's  
Bilingual/ESL Program**

**512-278-4000**

### ***What is English as a Second Language?***

English as a Second Language (ESL) is intensive English language instruction by teachers trained in recognizing and working with language differences.

State law requires school districts to provide ESL:

- in elementary schools when there are fewer than 20 Limited English Proficient (LEP) students of the same language enrolled in the same grade level in the district and;
- in middle schools and high schools with LEP student enrollment.

### ***What is an ESL program?***

- An ESL program provides intensive instruction in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending English.
- An ESL program uses the academic and cultural experience of the student as a platform to provide the appropriate instruction in English.
- An ESL program teaches language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies using strategies and methodologies appropriate for second language acquisition.

### ***ALL CHILDREN SHOULD ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN A WELL-BALANCED CURRICULUM***

#### ***What is the purpose of an ESL program?***

- An ESL program develops competence in English.
- An ESL program prepares the student to be successful in all academic subjects.

#### ***Who should be enrolled in an ESL program?***

Students in prekindergarten through high school who speak or hear a language other than English in their home and who have difficulty in English are eligible.

#### ***Will my child be taught the same subjects and learn the same skills as students in the regular program?***

- All students in ESL must receive instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in English using strategies and methodologies appropriate for them.
- Language arts, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies are integral parts of the state mandated curriculum.
- Music, physical education, health and art are all parts of the balanced curriculum that children in the program are required to receive.

#### ***Who is responsible for teaching in an ESL program?***

Teachers must be specially trained and certified to teach in ESL programs and meet the special language needs of these students.

#### ***How is an ESL program different from English language arts instruction?***

- Teachers are appropriately certified by the state to teach ESL.
- State-adopted ESL materials are provided to help students learn through proven methods.
- Instruction focuses on learning English for effective participation in other classes.

#### ***How can parents become involved in the ESL program?***

- Parent approval is required for students to participate in the program.
- Parents can volunteer for classroom activities.
- Parents can encourage their child at home to achieve, provide a place to study, and show interest in schoolwork.
- Parents can ask their child's teacher or principal about becoming a member of the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) that determines how students will be taught.