

English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Program Goals

The goal of the ESOL program is to address the needs of the whole child, to provide language acquisition as quickly as possible, and to foster a teacher/parent/student cooperative approach to learning and teaching. This program fosters an environment where individual differences and learning preferences are given their rightful place.

What Professional Development is Offered?

The ESOL Office offers a variety of opportunities that equip Atlanta Public Schools' (APS) educators to better address the unique needs of the English Language Learners (ELLs) in their school environments. These opportunities include, but are not limited to: tailored professional development classes at schools, conferences and training workshops, endorsements, and community outreach. These professional development activities are designed using the National Staff Development Council Standards (NSDC), the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium (WIDA) standards, the Mission and Core Beliefs of APS, and the APS' Strategic Goals.

Professional Development Offerings

- Atlanta Public Schools' ESOL Program Overview
- Virtual Tours of Mexico
- Reading Strategies for ELLs
- Helping ELLs Succeed
- Spanish for Educators (beginner, intermediate and advanced levels)
- ESOL: Teaching to the Standards
- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Training

Conferences and Workshops

The ESOL Office promotes attendance at national and local workshops in order to provide opportunities for study and research; to work cooperatively toward

the improvement of instruction in all programs which seek to provide students with an opportunity to acquire English language skills and proficiency; and to promote an understanding of the cultures of non-native speakers of English. These conferences include:

- Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Language (TESOL) Conference
- Southeast Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (SETESOL) Conference
- Georgia Teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (GATESOL) Conference
- Supporting Principles of English Acquisition and Knowledge (SPEAK) Conference

ESOL Endorsement Program

Atlanta Public Schools (APS) provides teachers with the opportunity to add the ESOL Endorsement to their certification. Classes are provided in conjunction with the Metropolitan Regional Educational Services Agency (MRESA). The APS/MRESA ESOL Endorsement prepares educators to respond to the needs of the growing number of ELLs in Georgia's Public Schools. The ESOL Endorsement is divided into three courses: Multicultural Education, Linguistics and Methods and Materials. Participants successfully completing all courses have the endorsement attached to their clear renewable teaching certificates, and receive as many as eighteen (18) Professional Learning Units (PLUs).

Community Outreach Opportunities

The APS ESOL Office provides opportunities outside of school for teachers to serve the ELL community at large. These opportunities include:

- The Literacy Bus – This initiative promotes literacy by providing guidance and support to parents of ELLs with free reading materials in the community
- Saturday School/ CRCT Testing Prep for ELLs
- Parent Outreach – English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for parents of APS' students interested in learning English