Description of ELL Services at each grade and language level: from our district ELL website. Downloaded 4/22/16.

**English Language Learners (ELL)**

**Philosophy/Vision**

The Issaquah School District uses an acceleration model that provides ELL students with powerful learning experiences that stress complex, engaging activities and direct teaching of the English language. Language and skill development is accelerated, so students can meet high standards in ALL academic areas.

The [Washington State English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPs)](http://www.k12.wa.us/migrantbilingual/eld.aspx) provide learning targets for teachers as they help the ELL students learn English.

Almost 1,200 students receive ELL services in the Issaquah School District. These students represent 65 different cultures and language groups. The most common are Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese (2016 data)

**General Information/FAQ's**

**How do students qualify for ELL services?**

Students must meet eligibility requirements to qualify for ELL services. Eligibility is determined by the placement or annual ELL test. Families will receive a letter reporting the results of this test.

Results from the spring 2016 ELPA21 test will be released in September 2016. Beginning at that time, there will be five levels of English language development, based on the [English Language Proficiency Standards](http://www.k12.wa.us/migrantbilingual/eld.aspx) (ELPs): Students at levels 1-4 will be eligible for ELL services.

This chart explains how the previous WELPA Placement Test and the new annual ELPA21 test scores overlap. Both will be in effect during the 2016-17 school year:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **New ELPA21 language levels beginning in Fall 2016** | **Corresponding previous WELPA language levels, 2015-16** | **ELL Services To Plan For** |
| Level 1 (Beginning) | Level 1 | Active ELL services |
| Level 2 (Early Intermediate) | Level 1 | Active ELL services |
| Level 3 (Intermediate) | Level 2 | Active ELL services |
| Level 4 (Early Advanced) | Level 3 | Active ELL services |
| Level 5 (Advanced/Transitional) | Level 4 | No active ELL services; academic monitoring and interventions as needed for struggling students |

To see a **Family Guide** to ELPA21 (in English and Spanish), click here:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/ELPA21/Timeline.aspx>  
  
To see **sample test items**, use Google Chrome and the following web address:  
<http://www.elpa21.org/assessment-system/sample-items>

**How often will students be tested?**

All ELL students will be re-tested on the annual ELL assessment each February or March. Scores are sent home from the district office after testing scores are received from OSPI.

**If they qualify for ELL services, what kind of help will they receive?**Students will not be removed from their classroom or change schools. They will receive services in their school.

**Elementary ELL model:** The “Supportive Mainstream" model is generally used in our elementary schools. In this model, students typically spend their day in a regular classroom. Many of the classroom and support teachers are trained in Project GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design). The ELL program employs certificated teachers and educational assistants to support the ELL student both in the classroom and in a pull-out model, by reviewing, extending or expanding the content, as well as building student proficiency in academic language that will help them fully access core content. The ELL Program staff work with the students, their families and the classroom teachers providing the needed support. The ISD ELL Specialist provides oversight and training for all ELL staff each year.

**Middle School ELL model:** In the middle school ELL program, a certificated teacher teaches the English Language Development class for ELL students. This class works to build student proficiency in academic language, helping students access the core curriculum throughout the rest of their day. These classes focus on oral language development, explicit instruction in the structure of the English language, and academic language development through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They may also support the student in their core classroom work. Some middle schools also provide after-school support for ELL students. The ISD ELL Specialist provides oversight and training for all ELL staff each year.

**High School ELL model:** In the high school ELL program, a certificated teacher teaches an English Language Development class for ELL students. This class works to build student proficiency in academic language helping students access the core curriculum throughout the rest of their day. These classes focus on oral language development, explicit instruction in the structure of the English language, and academic language development through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They may also support the student in their core classroom work. Some high schools also provide after-school support so that students can receive extra help with academics and language learning. The ISD ELL Specialist provides oversight and training for all ELL staff each year.