



**Our Mission: “Reach All...Teach All...”**

## **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **What is ESOL Training?**

**The State of Florida agreed in an out of court settlement in front of a federal judge in 1990 that teachers who serve the English Language Learner (ELL) student population in Florida must have appropriate training. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Endorsement requirements for Language Arts teachers were part of the certification rules prior to the Multicultural Education and Training Advocacy (META) Consent Decree, which was signed on August 14, 1990.**

**The Consent Decree called for Language Arts teachers to have or be working toward the Endorsement if they served ELL students. Understandable instruction and academic achievement are concerns and goals for ELL students in both Federal and State law. The Agreement calls for all teachers to have some ESOL training if they serve ELL students, depending on which “category” of subjects the teacher is teaching.**

**On April 25, 2003, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Florida Board of Education participated in mediation regarding the terms of the Consent Decree. The result was a modification of the original Consent Decree. The stipulation set forth an additional option by which a teacher may obtain ESOL coverage (certification); it also establishes training requirements of 60 hours’ ESOL training for school-based administrators and guidance counselors within three years of hire.**

### **Who takes ESOL training?**

**The district is required to provide trained teachers to all ELL students who attend school in Levy County. *As of 2004, the district is also required to provide 60 hours of ESOL training to all school-based administrators and guidance counselors.* In 2005-06, Reading teachers of ELLs were added to the Category 1 list along with Language Arts teachers and were required to start the process toward ESOL Certification. Category 2 or “basic” teachers (math, science, social studies, and computer teachers) must take one of the 60-hour courses to complete appropriate training that makes them eligible to teach ELLs; and an 18-hour ESOL training program was developed for Category 3 or “other” teachers. Category 4 or principals, assistant principals, and guidance counselors are required to complete 60 hours of ESOL training.**

**According to the META agreement, *teachers who have ELL students fall into three groups, according to the subjects they teach:***

**Category I Teachers**—teachers of Reading and Language Arts

**Category II Teachers**—core content-area teachers of Math, Science, Social Studies, and Computer Literacy

**Category III Teachers**—teachers of other subject areas

**Below is a chart showing the ESOL training requirements and timeline for State compliance:**

<b>COURSES</b>	<b>CATEGORY I</b>	<b>CATEGORY II</b>	<b>CATEGORY III</b>	<b>CATEGORY IV</b>
<b><i>ESOL ENDORSEMENT 300 PTS. (6 years)</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>ESOL METHODS 60 PTS</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>APPLIED LINGUISTICS 60 PTS.</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION 60 PTS.</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS 60 PTS.</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION 60 PTS.</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>ESOL BASIC 60 60 PTS. (1-2 years)</i></b>		✓		
<b><i>ESOL CERTIFICATION</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>ESOL SUBJECT AREA EXAM</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>ANY TWO ESOL COURSES 120 PTS. (3 years)</i></b>	✓			
<b><i>ESOL 18 PTS. (1-2 years)</i></b>			✓	
<b><i>ESOL FOR ADMINISTRATORS (3 years to complete)</i></b>				✓
<b><i>ESOL FOR GUIDANCE COUNSELORS</i></b>				✓



## **Teachers Category 1 – Language Arts Teachers and Reading Teachers**

- **Teach language arts or reading to students who are “regular diploma” students (this would include an SLD teacher who is teaching “regular diploma” ESE students).**

### **Requirement Options and Application Information:**

**Take the five required ESOL courses (60 X 5 = 300 hours): ESOL Methods, Applied Linguistics, Curriculum and Materials, Assessment and Evaluation, and Cross-cultural Communications, and apply to add the ESOL Endorsement to Teaching Certificate.**

**Once a Category I teacher has an ELL student in their class, they must follow a specific timeline to complete the ESOL requirements. A teacher must complete their first 60 ESOL points within two years of having an ELL student. The remaining 4 courses must be completed during the following 4 years sequentially. There can be no lapse in completion of coursework (even if the teacher no longer teaches an ELL student). For ESOL Endorsement, all 5 courses must be completed within a six-year timeframe.**

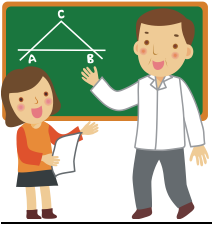
**Complete two ESOL courses (60 X 2 = 120 hours), take and pass the Subject Area Exam (SAE) in ESOL, apply to add the ESOL Coverage or ESOL Certification to the Teaching Certificate.**

**Take five designated college courses in ESOL and apply to the DOE to add the ESOL Endorsement to the Teaching Certificate with an official transcript from the college and an application fee.**

### **Eligibility to teach ELLs:**

**Category 1 teachers who have ELLs and who are taking ESOL requirements on an appropriate timeline maintain district compliance with state law; they are eligible to teach ELLs while they are taking their course work. They are out of field in ESOL until they meet the requirements to be certified in ESOL and apply for the addition to their certificates.**

**Category 1 teachers who are eligible to teach ELLs and who have an ELL assigned to them while taking course work but before they are certified must be approved by the School Board as out-of-field in ESOL but eligible for ELLs. The school Principal is responsible for completing the out-of-field agreement form for each teacher and sending it to Human Resources within 30 days of an ELL’s placement in a classroom so that the School Board can approve the ESOL out-of-field placement. Principals must use a parent notification letter to notify the parents of the ELL student that the teacher is out-of-field for ESOL.**



## **Teachers Category 2 – Social Studies, Math, Science, Computer Skills**

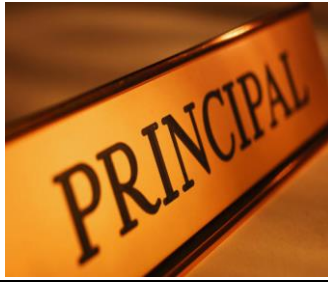
- **Teachers of these subjects are called “basic subject area” teachers; they must take 60 hours of ESOL training if they teach ELLs.**
- **They are NOT required to gain certification in ESOL, and they are NOT reported to the School Board as “out of field in ESOL”.**
- **Any one of the five ESOL courses for teachers meets the training requirement for “basic subject area” teachers to be eligible for ELLs. The preferred course is ESOL Basic 60.**
- **The inservice records of “basic subject area” teachers verify their ESOL training for audit purposes.**
- ***Beginning teachers must complete this requirement within two years.***
- ***Experienced teachers must complete this requirement within one year.***



## **Teachers Category 3 – “Other teachers”**

**All teachers other than Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Computer skills are called “other ESOL” teachers; they must take 18 hours of training to be eligible for ELLs. This category includes pre-kindergarten teachers and reading coaches.**

- **These teachers do NOT receive certification in ESOL.**
- **Their inservice records verify their training in ESOL and their eligibility for ELLs for audit purposes.**
- **They are NOT reported to the School Board as “out of field for ESOL”.**
- ***Beginning teachers must complete this requirement within two years.***
- ***Experienced teachers must complete this requirement with one year.***

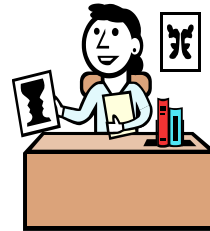


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#### **School-Based Administrators-Category 4**

**Under the LULAC stipulation modifying the META Consent Decree, principals and assistant principals are required to have 60 hours of ESOL training.**

- **School administrators must take the ESOL training *within three years of hire* as a school-based administrator, unless they have already taken 60 hours of ESOL before being hired as a school-based administrator.**



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#### **School-Based Guidance Counselors-Category 4**

**Under the LULAC stipulation modifying the META Consent Decree, school guidance counselors are required to have 60 hours of ESOL training.**

- **Guidance counselors must take the ESOL training *within three years of hire* as a school-based counselor.**