



Welcome to Ridgewood

English Learners and ESL Services

Presentation to New Families




How we determine whether a new student is an English Learner:

- Parent input – **you** are the first step in this process
 - during school registration, you completed a Home Language Survey by answering questions including:
 - What is the primary language used at home?
 - What is the language most often spoken by the student?
 - What language does the student use with siblings or friends?



Is Your Child an English Learner?

- In addition to the Home Language Survey we consider:
 - Student interviews
 - Scores on NJDOE-approved assessments
 - Teacher recommendations
 - Previous student records



What happens once a student is found to be an English Learner?

- Parent/Guardian is notified within 30 days that
 - The student was identified as an English Learner
 - Why the student needs to be placed in a language program that will help develop and attain English proficiency
 - The method of instruction used to serve the student



What is ESL in Ridgewood Schools?

- English as a Second Language (ESL) helps your child to learn English.
- Your children learn to speak, listen to, read and write English.
- Your children learn academic language for school and social language for friends and fun.
- In elementary schools, ESL is thirty minutes long. ESL is in the ESL room.
- In middle school and high school, it is longer. The students go to the ESL room.



How Long Will My Child Receive ESL Services?

- The length of time a student receives ESL services varies. We use multiple measures in order to determine if a student is ready to exit the program:
 - NJDOE-established standards on an annual test – ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
 - Classroom performance and the student's reading level in English
 - Teacher recommendation
 - Performance on other achievement tests

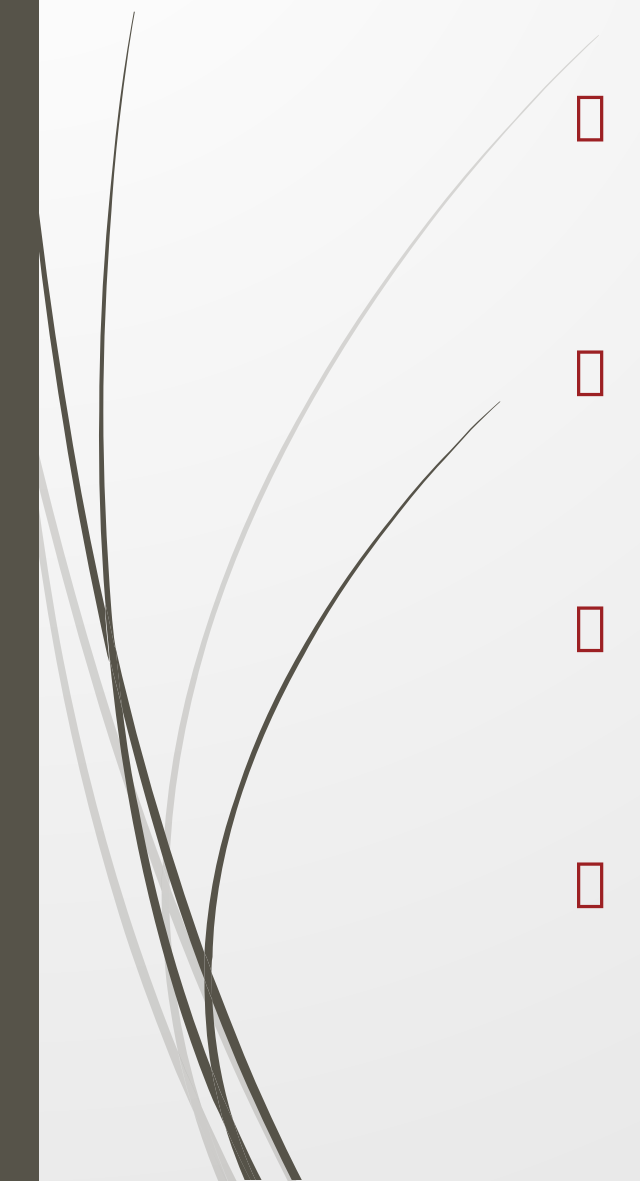


Can I decline ESL services for my child?

- Yes, a parent or guardian may decline enrollment of their child in an ESL program. Additionally, a parent or guardian may remove a pupil at the end of the school year.
- It should be noted that if a parent or guardian wishes to remove their child during the school year, he/she must have the approval of the county superintendent of schools.
- If a parent or guardian declined services and later decides to request these services, it is the decision of the district to determine at what point during the school year such enrollment could occur, based on the needs of the student.



What is ACCESS for ELLs?

- ACCESS for ELLs is an English language proficiency assessment administered each year to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who are English learners
 - ACCESS for ELLs monitors the English language development of students in the areas of: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing
 - Score reports that are sent to parents/guardians provide information on their child's progress in the development of English language proficiency
 - Performance on this assessment is considered when determining if a student is ready to exit ESL services
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Features of ACCESS Online:

- ACCESS for ELLs Online is a computer-based, adaptive test that responds to student performance and may be administered in group or individual settings
- It routes students to easier or more challenging content based on their performance; educators do not need to place students into difficulty tiers prior to the test
- It ensures standardized, reliable scoring; all domains are centrally scored at DRC by trained raters
- Scores from ACCESS Online can be used to inform instruction and monitor progress of English language learners (ELLs) in a school or district



Are there classes available for parents?

- The Ridgewood Public Library offers a variety of programs and classes, including English as a Second Language. Please visit RidgewoodLibrary.org for details on upcoming events and registration information.
- The Ridgewood Community School offers a number of programs in areas including the arts, health & wellness and languages to name a few. You can find the current course catalog by visiting [Ridgewood Community School](http://RidgewoodCommunitySchool)
- [Ridgewood Newcomers](http://RidgewoodNewcomers) is a non-profit organization, offering a wide range of activities and events aimed at the diverse interests of their membership.



Questions and Answers

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