

Macon County Elementary School
English to Speakers of Other Language
(ESOL Program)

Macon County Elementary offers language assistance services to students for whom English is a second language. These English Language Learners are served through a program titled "English to Speakers of Other Languages" (ESOL). The purpose of the ESOL program is to provide English Language Learners with the skills they need to communicate and demonstrate academic, social, and cultural understandings in and out of the classroom setting. English Language Learners receive instruction in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They also receive extra help on classroom assignments, if needed. This extra individualized instruction helps these English Language Learners achieve a successful academic experience at Macon County Elementary School.

Not all students who come from a language background other than English attend the ESOL program. Only the students who qualify for ESOL services are served through this program. Students who enter the school population must first be identified as a potential English Language Learner. Next, these students must be tested for eligibility to participate in the program. Requesting permission from the parents for their child to be placed in the ESOL program is the final step.

The student information sheet that is completed by all parents who enroll their children in Macon County Elementary includes a language background survey. This survey asks the three following questions: (1). What languages are spoken in the home? (2). What language does the student speak most often? (3). What language did the student first learn to speak? If the answer to any one of these questions is anything other than English, then that student is tested for eligibility to receive ESOL services.

When potential ESOL students are identified, they are given the W APT test. This test assesses the student's ability to read, write, speak, and understand English. It determines the student's ability to function academically and socially in a regular classroom setting.

If the student is determined to be eligible for ESOL service, a note requesting permission to be placed in the program is sent home to his/her parents. The parents can agree to their child receiving services or they can deny services.

A student who receives ESOL services is tested annually to determine if they have achieved the skills necessary to function socially and academically in an English only classroom. Students are given the ACCESS test to determine whether or not they qualify to exit the program. ACCESS test results, Standardized test scores, and input from The ESOL teacher and regular classroom teachers are used to make the final decision concerning whether a student exits the ESOL program or continues to receive services for the following, school year. ~

Here at Macon County Elementary we desire for every student to enjoy a positive and rewarding educational experience. The ESOL program is one way we strive to meet the individual needs of all students and ensure that each student feels successful in the classroom. Please call Mrs. Carol Park, ESOL Teacher at 472-7221 if you have any questions.