

Hamilton County Department of Education

ESOL Department

Fast Facts

ELL- *English Language Learners* (students whose first language is not English and who are in the process of learning English)

ESL - *English as a Second Language* (generally refers to learning English in order to live in a native English speaking country)

ESOL - *English for Speakers of Other Languages*

LEP – *Limited English Proficient* (an acronym used at the federal level to describe English language learners who participate in the ESOL program)

SI – *Sheltered Instruction* (an approach to teaching that extends the time students have for receiving English language support while they learn content subjects)

SIOP – *Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol*

In the Hamilton County Schools, *students* are referred to as ELLs and the *programming* is referred to as ESOL.

Hamilton County Schools provides a program for ELLs to increase students' English language skills so their academic performance is equivalent to native English-speaking students of the same age and grade level. ESOL services are available for K-12 students and are designed to provide academic, cultural, social, and support services to students who are limited English proficient. Comprehensible instruction is delivered *in English* in order that the student will develop language that enables him/her to actively participate in a student-centered learning process. Language acquisition skills, together with thematic holistic concepts, enable language to become real for the students. In Hamilton County Schools, ESOL services are crafted based on the *Tennessee Standards for English Language Learners* and delivered using a Sheltered Instruction Model called SIOP. This research-based, validated model of sheltered instruction helps teachers plan and deliver lessons that allow English Learners to acquire academic knowledge as they develop English language proficiency.

In Hamilton County Schools....

- 45+ languages spoken by ELLs receiving services
- More than 35 countries of origin
- Over 75 languages spoken by HCDE students
- Over 2,000 ELLs currently receiving ESOL Services
- The *majority* of our ELLs were born in the United States
- 28 ESOL Sites
 - 17 Elementary Schools
 - 6 Middle Schools
 - 5 High Schools
- The ESOL Department is comprised of **51** teachers, a Language Acquisition Coach, **6** interpreters, and a ESOL Support Center technician

