

Hardee County District Schools

ESOL Requirements and Information

About ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

In August, 1990, the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, issued a Consent Decree giving the court power to enforce an agreement between the Florida State Board of Education and a coalition of eight groups represented by Multicultural Education, Training and Advocacy, Inc. (META).

The Consent Decree settlement terms focus on the following six issues:

- Identification and assessment
- Equal access to appropriate programming
- Equal access to appropriate categorical and other programming for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students
- Personnel
- Monitoring
- Outcome measures

The META Agreement states that Florida teachers are required to participate in training when they have a Limited English Proficient (LEP) student assigned to their class. Training is available through approved on line providers, colleges and universities and through inservice opportunities provided by the district.

There are three categories for teachers (Category I, II, and III), each with its own training requirements. When determining the appropriate category, keep in mind that the teaching assignment, not the area of certification, is the deciding factor.

A certificate holder may bank inservice points or college credit completed in ESOL during the validity period of a temporary certificate to use towards the first renewal of a professional certificate, as long as there was no break in continuity of certificates and the training was not part of a degreed program. A certificate holder may bank all ESOL inservice or college credit earned while on a professional certificate to use for subsequent renewal periods.

A modification was made to the Consent Decree in 2003 that requires all administrators and school guidance counselors (Category IV) to attend ESOL training.

ESOL Requirements - Category I

This category is for teachers responsible for teaching language instruction or reading, such as Elementary, English, Language Arts, Reading, and Exceptional Education.

Category I requires proof of completion of the following 5 content areas, either with in-service and/or college courses, or by completing two courses, passing the ESOL Subject Area Test, and adding either the ESOL Endorsement or ESOL K-12 Certification (respectively) to your teaching certificate.

- Methods of Teaching ESOL
- ESOL Curriculum and Materials Development

- Cross-Cultural Communication and Understanding
- Applied Linguistics
- Testing and Evaluation of ESOL

Category I teachers have six years to complete the courses. The timeline for completing the requirements for Category I begins the day and month you are assigned an ESOL student. Should your teaching assignment change, you must continue to complete requirements per the timeline below:

Years 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semester hrs/60 inservice pts
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semester hrs/60 inservice pts totaling 6 semester hrs/120 inservice points
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semester hrs/60 inservice pts totaling 9 semester hrs/180 inservice points
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semester hrs/60 inservice pts totaling 12 semester hrs/240 inservice points
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 semester hrs/60 inservice pts totaling 15 semester hrs/300 inservice points

You must submit either official transcripts or inservice printout (clearly marked, "For ESOL Credit") to the Certification Office.

Upon completion of 15 college credits or 300 inservice points or a combination of both, request that the ESOL Endorsement be added to your teaching certificate by submitting an official transcript and the appropriate application and fees to the District Certification Office.

Requirements for ESOL Subject Area Coverage K-12

Using a degree to add ESOL to your teaching certificate you will need to submit the following documentation to the Certification Office:

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree in TESOL, *and*
- Official Score Report reflecting a passing score on the ESOL Subject Area Exam.

Using a passing score on the ESOL Subject Area Exam you will need to submit the following documentation to the Certification Office:

- Official Score Report reflecting a passing score on the ESOL Subject Area Exam and adding ESOL to your teaching certificate by completing an application and attaching the appropriate fee,

AND

- Completing two courses equaling 6 semester hours or 120 inservice points within three years of passing the ESOL Subject Area Exam and adding ESOL to your certificate.

You will be out-of-field for ESOL until you complete all requirements.

ESOL Requirements - Category II, III, and IV

The timeline for completing ESOL requirements begins the day and month you are assigned a Limited English Proficient student. Once the requirements are met, submit an official transcript or inservice printout to the Certification Office.

Category II (ESOL Compliance)

In order to be in compliance, teachers of Math, Social Studies, Science, or Computer Literacy need 60 ESOL inservice points or one of the approved ESOL college courses. Experienced teachers have one year and beginning teachers have two years to complete the requirements.

Training Requirements

- Hold certification in a subject appropriate to the teaching assignment, and
- Complete 60 inservice points or 3 semester hours of college credit in ESOL strategies.

Category III (ESOL Compliance)

In order to be in compliance, teachers who teach subjects not listed in Category I, II, or IV, such as Art, Music, Physical Education, or Media Specialists need 18 ESOL in-service points or one of the approved ESOL college courses. Experienced teachers have one year and beginning teachers have two years to complete requirements.

Training Requirements

- Hold certification in a subject appropriate to the teaching assignment, and
- Complete 18 inservice points or 3 semester hours of college credit in ESOL strategies.

Category IV (ESOL Compliance)

In order to be in compliance, Administrators or Guidance Counselors need 60 ESOL in-service points or one of the approved ESOL college courses.

- Administrators or Guidance Counselors hired prior to September 9, 2003 must complete the requirements within three years.
- People hired after September 9, 2003 must complete the requirements within three years of the hire date as a school administrator or guidance counselor.

Training Requirements

- Complete 60 inservice points or 3 semester hours of college credit in an approved ESOL course or inservice component.

Answers to common Questions

Category I

Q: What training do I need to get my Category I ESOL Endorsement or ESOL Certification?

A: ESOL category I teachers have two options to satisfy their ESOL requirements:

Option One – ESOL Endorsement

- Complete the five (5) ESOL Endorsement classes below:
Methods of Teaching ESOL
Applied Linguistics
Cross Cultural Communication
ESOL Curriculum and Materials
Testing and Evaluation of ESOL

Option Two – ESOL Certification

- Complete two (2) of the above ESOL Endorsement classes (Methods of Teaching ESOL & Applied Linguistics are recommended to prepare for the certification exam)
- Pass the ESOL K-12 Subject Area Exam (SAE)

*Please note that the above ESOL endorsement classes can be taken only once for in-service points. Also, the ESOL endorsement or certification must be added to your teaching certificate.

Q: How much time do I have to satisfy my ESOL requirements?

A: Category 1 teachers have six (6) years to meet their ESOL requirements. This timeline begins with the first ESOL Out-of-Field Notification. It is recommended that teachers take at least one ESOL Endorsement class each year to remain on track.

Q: How is the ESOL Endorsement or the ESOL Certification added to the teaching certificate?

A: This service is provided by the district's Certification Department.

Q: What is the next step after I have completed my ESOL Endorsement courses?

A: In order to fully satisfy their ESOL requirements, Category 1 teachers who completed the endorsement requirements MUST add the ESOL Endorsement to their teaching certificate. For more information contact the Certification Department

Q: What is the next step after I have passed the ESOL K-12 Certification exam and completed the two ESOL courses?

A: In order to fully satisfy the ESOL requirements, Category 1 teachers who passed the certification exam MUST add the ESOL K-12 Certification to their teaching certificate.

Category II

Q: What training do I need for ESOL Category II?

A: To satisfy your ESOL category 2 requirement you must complete 60 approved ESOL in-service points OR 1 approved ESOL college course.

Q: How much time do I have to satisfy my ESOL requirements?

A: Category 2 ESOL requirements should be satisfied within the first year that an ESOL Out-of-Compliance Notification is received.

Q: What do I do after I have completed my category II ESOL requirements?

A: No additional action is needed after Category II teachers have met their ESOL requirement. The requirements for this category are NOT equivalent to an ESOL endorsement or certification and WILL NOT be added to the teaching certificate. The district maintains inservice records for verification of completion.

Category III

Q: What training do I need for ESOL Category III?

A: To satisfy your ESOL Category III requirement you must complete 18 approved ESOL in-service points OR 1 approved ESOL college course.

Q: How much time do I have to satisfy my ESOL requirements?

A: Category III ESOL requirements should be satisfied within the first year that an ESOL Out-of-Compliance Notification is received.

Q: What do I do after I have completed my category 3 ESOL requirements?

A: No additional action is needed after Category III teachers have met their ESOL requirement. The requirements for this category are NOT equivalent to an ESOL endorsement or certification and WILL NOT be added to the teaching certificate.

Q: What training do I need for ESOL Category IV? The district maintains inservice records for verification.

A: To satisfy your ESOL category IV requirement you must complete 60 approved ESOL in-service points OR 1 approved ESOL college course.

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Q: How much time do I have to satisfy my ESOL requirements?

A: Category IV ESOL requirements should be satisfied within the first year that an ESOL Out-of-Compliance Notification is received.

Q: What do I do after I have completed my Category IV ESOL requirements?

A: No additional action is needed after Category IV teachers have met their ESOL requirement. The requirements for this category are NOT equivalent to an ESOL endorsement or certification and WILL NOT be added to the teaching certificate. The district maintains inservice records for verification.