**ESOL Endorsement/Certification Frequently Asked Questions**

# Why do I need ESOL training?

The State of Florida agreed, in an out of court settlement, 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 ESOL Endorsement if they served ELL students. Comprehensible instruction and academic achievement are concerns and goals for ELL students defined by both Federal and State laws. 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. These modifications went into effect in September 2003. The stipulation set forth an additional option by which a teacher may obtain ESOL Certification. It also establishes that school administrators and guidance counselors are required to take 60 hours of ESOL training within three years of hiring.

# Who takes ESOL trainings?

According to the META agreement, staff members whose role fall into any of the following categories are required to participate in ESOL training:

Category I: Primary Language Arts/English, Developmental Language Arts, Reading, Intensive Reading

Category II: Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and Computer Literacy Category III: All other subject areas not included in Categories I or II Category IV: School-based administrators and School Counselors

*For more information in each of these categories, please visit:* [*ESOL Training Guidelines*](https://www.brevardschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=11656&dataid=97227&FileName=ESOL%20Training%20Guidelines%209-7-18.pdf)

# When is a Category I teacher considered to be out of field?

From the moment a teacher is hired, the teacher is required to take an ESOL course per academic year until the ESOL Endorsement has been completed. The teacher will be considered out of field until all the courses (300 hours of ESOL in-service training) have been completed. The teacher also has the option of taking the ESOL K – 12 Subject Area Exam, in addition, to 120 hours of ESOL courses work (two courses) to satisfy the ESOL state requirement.

# When is a Category I teacher considered to be out of compliance?

Once a teacher begins their ESOL Endorsement course work, they must continue to take at least one course within each academic year. When a teachers has an interruption in coursework, the teacher will be out of compliance. Teachers in this category are required to take an ESOL class/classes as soon as possible to fulfill the ESOL state requirement.

# Are counselors and administrators required to have ESOL in-service credits?

With the modifications made to the Florida Consent Decree in 2003, Category IV, school-based counselors and administrators are required to take 60 hours of ESOL in- service training.

#  As a Category I teacher, how many years do I have to complete my ESOL Endorsement?

Category I teachers have six years to complete the ESOL Endorsement. Once the courses are started, one must be taken each year until completion.

# As a teacher (non-Category I), how soon do I need to take my ESOL class?

Teachers other than Category I have one year to fulfill their ESOL requirement from hiring date or by September 15th of the following school year.

# Do I need to take the ESOL Endorsement courses in order?

Although we recommend taking the ESOL courses in order, this is not required.

# What is the difference between Endorsement and Certification?

In Florida, teachers can meet the ESOL state requirements by following two paths:

* 1. ESOL Endorsement – teachers will take 5 ESOL endorsement courses for a total of 300 hours of ESOL in-service points.
	2. ESOL Certification – Teachers will take the ESOL K-12 Subject Area Exam and will complete 120 hours of ESOL in-service (two courses) within three years of adding the ESOL K-12 Subject Area Exam to the teaching certificate.

# After completing my ESOL Endorsement courses, what is the process to add the Endorsement to my teaching certificate?

After completing all the ESOL state requirements, teachers will complete their application to have the ESOL endorsement add to their existing certificate. Go to our Endorsement program page and look in the section [ESOL INFORMATION](https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/8001) to find the instructions. There is no payroll deduction for the addition of ESOL. Once you have completed the application, reach out to Sharon Doucett-Doran or Raquel Figueroa to let them know the application is complete. Once it has been processed, the DOE will send a link to the new certificate.

#  After I take the ESOL K – 12 Subject Area Exam, do I need to take ESOL courses?

Teachers that take and pass the test and have ESOL as an area of certification will only need to take 120 hours of ESOL in-service points (two courses).

# Can I take the ESOL K – 12 Subject Area Exam without taking ESOL courses?

Although we recommend teachers to have some ESOL training prior to taking the ESOL K-12 Subject Area Exam, this is not a requirement. Teachers can sign up and take the test at any time. To register for the test, please go to: Florida Exams Website: [www.fl.nesinc.com](http://www.fl.nesinc.com/)

# How many classes am I required to take per academic year?

Category I teachers are required to take at least one ESOL Endorsement course per academic year. Until all the classes are completed, teachers will be considered out of field.

# If I take a summer class, will this class count for the next academic year?

No. Classes taken during the summer and prior to June 30th will count for the current academic year.

# What are the five courses included in the ESOL Endorsement program?

The ESOL Endorsement is composed of five Domains:

* Domain 1: Cross Cultural Communication
* Domain 2: Applied Linguistic
* Domain 3: Methods of Teaching
* Domain 4: Curriculum and Materials
* Domain 5: Testing and Evaluation

# What is the difference between the ESOL endorsement courses and the ESOL 18 hour course?

The ESOL endorsement courses comprise all aspects of the ESOL Endorsement. The ESOL 18 hour course is a survey of all the Domains. It does not count as part of the 300 hours required for the ESOL Endorsement.

# Where do I register to take the ESOL courses?

To register for the ESOL Endorsement courses you will sign up in Frontline. Courses are available for registration in August, November, and February. Courses begin September, January, and April.

# Can I take more than one course at a time?

Yes. Teachers can register for a maximum of two courses at a time.

# After course completion, how can I verify the courses that I have completed in the ESOL Endorsement Program?

To verify that ESOL in-service points please check your in-service record in Frontline

# Because some of the Reading and ESOL Endorsement Program courses have similar objectives, is it possible for me to receive credit for a Reading Endorsement course because I completed all five ESOL Endorsement Program courses (300 hours)?

No, BPS no longer offers this option.

# I took ESOL Empowering Teachers prior to July 1, 2011. Will the course be accepted as one of the five courses for the ESOL Endorsement Program?

This course is equivalent to ESOL Methods of Teaching.

# Can the ESOL in-service points be banked?

Yes, ESOL in-service points can be banked.

# Is it possible to transfer previous college credit to in-service points for ESOL credit?

Yes. At the time of on-boarding the certification office will review the transcript for courses meeting the criteria. If you believe you have a course equivalent that does not show on your current in-service record, please reach out to Lynnette Thorstensen.

# Can Florida ESOL Endorsement be transferred to another state?

No. The knowledge is acquired through ESOL in-service points. ESOL Certification is accepted on a state-to-state basis.

# If I still have questions, how do I get guidance on which courses I still need to take to complete my ESOL Endorsement?

The first step will be to check the in-service record. Using the course list above, determine what courses remain. If additional assistance is required, reach out to Lynnette Thorstensen for assistance.

