



# Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

*Do More. Be More. Achieve More.*

## English Language Learner (ELL) Program

The goal of the FSDB ELL Program is to provide equal access to students and families, and to promote cultural awareness and understanding. Specifically, the ELL Program:

- Addresses the language and cultural needs of each student.
- Develops positive relationships with families from other countries.
- Provides communication and assistance to families from other countries regardless of ELL status.
- Works with ELL parents who are members of the International Relations Committee (IRC).
- Performs initial student assessments:
  - Deaf/hard of hearing student assessments are done in ASL and, if feasible, in their native sign language.
  - Blind/visually impaired student assessments are done in English and, if feasible, in their native language. Braille assessment is used as applicable.
- Employs highly qualified and certified staff members who are bilingual or multilingual.
- Provides language facilitators who are fluent in both English and the child's native language, if possible.
- Provides Developmental Language Arts and/or English 1, 2, 3 and 4 at the High School level. Parallel push-in or pull-out instructional services are offered for Elementary and Middle School students.
- Promotes cultural awareness and understanding and encourages diversity in the ELL program by implementing academic units and field trips.
- Provides written and oral foreign language translations in Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Russian, and Spanish (other languages are provided as needed).
- Distributes Trilingual Assessment packets that includes English/Spanish/ASL content, as well as resources for parents and educators not only at FSDB but throughout the USA and other countries.

### Trilingual Screening Assessment

A federal Title VII Bilingual Enhancement grant enabled FSDB to develop and disseminate the Trilingual Receptive and Expressive I and II Assessment (TRES I & II). The assessment was field-tested at FSDB and shared with every district in Florida. TRES I & II is a tool used to determine eligibility for ELL services and is available on request.

### District ELL Plan

School districts throughout Florida are required to submit an ELL District Plan to the to the Office for Student Achievement through Language Acquisition (SALA) within the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). All plans are approved by SALA every three years. The FSDB ELL District Plan for 2016-2019 and the State ELL 2016-2019 plan are available on request.

For more information, contact:

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