

Superintendent of Schools:  
**Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt**

Chief Academic Officer:  
**Dr. Pierette Finney**

Executive Director of English Learner Services:  
**Dr. Bethany Nickerson**

Assessment Specialist  
**Suzanne Lank**

Bilingual Parent Resource Specialist:  
**Yosaida Rojas Hinton**

EL Instructional Specialists :  
**Michelle Suchenski (K-5)**  
**Shannon O'Rourke (K-5)**  
**Jessica Raugitane (Curriculum Specialist and K-5 Specialist)**  
**Keisha Shirley(6-12)**

Dual Language Coordinator:  
**Sophia Melendez Contrearras**

Project GLAD Specialist:  
**Anna Harvin**

EL Office Staff:  
**Michael T. Covington: Business Specialist**  
**Juana Terrazas: Bilingual Registrar / Foreign Transcript Evaluator**  
**Jacqueline Gil: Administrative Assistant I / Bilingual Registrar**  
**Maria McCullough: Bilingual Registrar**  
**Manija Karim: Bilingual Registrar**

EL Office Telephone:(703) 619-8022/571-481-8654  
**Telephone Hours: 7:30-4:00**  
**Student Registrations: 7:30-2:00**



### **Who registers at the EL Office:**

- Students who speak a language other than, or in addition to, English in the home.

#### **Resources for Parents/Guardians**

<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/departments/school-community-relations/community-partnerships-and-engagement/family-and-community-engagement>

#### **ACPS FACE Multilingual Parent Information Lines**

- For Spanish/English, call 703-244-0454  
or /571-775-9719
- For Arabic/English, call 703-927-7095
- For Amharic/English, call 703-927-6866

**Virginia Department of Education EL Page:**  
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/esl/>

**U.S. Department of Education Series:**  
**Helping Your Child**  
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>

**Parent Guide to Childhood Immunizations, Department of Health and Human Services:**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/Parents-Guide/default.htm>

**U.S. Department of Education:**  
[https://ncela.ed.gov/files/family\\_toolkit/EL-Family-Tool-Kit-All.pdf](https://ncela.ed.gov/files/family_toolkit/EL-Family-Tool-Kit-All.pdf)

## **ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

### **Language Instruction Educational Program**

***Supporting English  
Learner (EL) Students***



### **Office of English Learner Services**

**1340 Braddock Place  
Floors 1 & 4  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone: 703-619-8022  
E-mail: [ELOffice@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:ELOffice@acps.k12.va.us)**

## English Learner (EL) Program Features

### Mission Statement

The Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) provides a program of language instruction so that students meet the same challenging academic content and student achievement standards that all students are expected to meet while they develop English language proficiency.

### The Office of EL Services

- Register students for school and evaluate for English language proficiency to determine eligibility for EL program services
- Assess mathematics skills of grades 6-12 students
- Evaluate foreign transcripts and award high school credits
- Provide orientation and community resource information to families new to ACPS
- Provide language access services
- Coordinate dual language program services
- Provide professional learning and instructional support to teachers of EL students
- Monitor K-12 program services in schools
- Support administration of the state's annual English language proficiency assessment
- Coordinate EL summer learning programs
- Support schools in the education of EL students

### EL School-Based Program Services

- Provide language instruction and support with an EL endorsed teacher to EL students in grades K-12
- Implement content-based language learning, in which language is taught through the academic content areas
- Assist students in attaining proficiency in English while meeting state content standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and science

## English Language Proficiency (ELP) Level

### K-12 ELP Levels

Level 1 - Entering  
Level 2 - Emerging  
Level 3 - Developing  
Level 4 - Expanding  
Level 5 - Bridging  
Level 6 - Reaching

The ELP Level of a student is determined by the student's score on a WIDA screener or the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessment. The ELP level determines eligibility for EL program services. A description of the levels is available from the EL Office. The ELP level assists in understanding at any given level the language a student can process, understand, produce or use, and helps inform instruction to support students in moving to higher ELP levels along the language proficiency continuum.

### Annual English Language Assessment

The language progress of EL students is measured once annually by the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0® test. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0® measures students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English. Parents receive the results of the test by mail. At any time parents may visit their child's school for further information about their child's ELP level and test results.

Students are exited from EL program services when they reach an overall composite score of Level 4.4 on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0® test. Students are then monitored for two years to ensure they are successful in the general education program.

### EL Students and Special Education

Students who are developing English language proficiency may also be eligible for special education services. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) and the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia (2010) assure that a free appropriate public education is provided to all students eligible for special education and related services.

Students eligible for special education will receive special education and related services in accordance with each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) §300-324(a)(2)(ii). The IEP team must consider the language needs of the child as they relate to the IEP.

## Language Instruction Educational Program

Virginia is a member of the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium and has adopted the following English language development standards for implementation in core academic subjects:

- *Standard 1:* English language learners communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting.
- *Standard 2:* English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of language arts.
- *Standard 3:* English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of mathematics.
- *Standard 4:* English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of science.
- *Standard 5:* English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of social studies.

EL students receive English instruction and support in grades K-12. The EL teachers teach English language development courses, co-teach, provide services in the general education classroom and/or pull students out in small groups for instruction, to assist students in developing academic language through the study of academic content areas. EL teachers support both students and content teachers through identifying and teaching the language required to access the general education curriculum, and differentiating and adapting material to make course content more comprehensible.

An important feature of the high school EL program is that all EL students can earn content area credits required for graduation while receiving support for developing academic language and literacy skills. Through the International Academy model within Alexandria City High School, students engage in rigorous, integrated content and language learning and have a dedicated team of teachers, a counselor, and a social worker. The expectation is that all students, whether in the IA or traditional models of EL services, earn the credits required to graduate from high school within four years of entering 9th grade.