

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

English as a Second Language (ESL) Course Code Correlations

1. [General Questions](#)
2. [Elementary School Questions](#)
3. [High School Questions](#)

General Questions

1. Why has the department changed the ESL course codes?

Previously, the department had two ESL course codes, one for elementary and one for secondary. By grouping all students into two buckets, we were not appropriately setting expectations for the different grade levels or providing transparent information for student transcripts. The additional course codes ensure that students are receiving the appropriate grade level standards and assessments in order for us to support students achieving their chosen path in life.

2. When will the new course codes be published as final?

The final correlation of course codes document, which includes the ESL course codes, will be published [here](#) in May 2018.

3. When is the course master updated?

On July 2, 2018, the course master will be updated based on the final correlation document.

4. How should a push-in model be coded in the student information system (SIS)?

Districts will need to work with their SIS vendor to make sure that they are coding correctly in their specific system. There are multiple systems used in Tennessee districts, and the department does not have input into those various systems. The department uses Education Information System (EIS) to gather district information.

Please note that the model chosen for the district's ESL program is a district decision. All ESL models will be coded using the course codes available. The requirement for ESL is that English Language Development (ELD) standards overlay grade-level English language arts (ELA) standards. A student in a push-in model should be coded for ELA and ESL.

5. Will newcomer course codes be added?

Newcomer students are students in their first year in the U.S. The department will reconsider the addition of newcomer codes in 2019-20. We will send out a survey in late September to gather feedback from districts regarding these codes.

6. What code do we use if the English learner (EL) is getting service only through RTI² and not in a class with an ESL teacher?

ELs are required to receive ESL services. RTI² may not substitute for ESL services.

7. How did you choose the WIDA levels used in the explanations?

WIDA levels were chosen at points where ELs generally have success in grade-level academic classes with language supports for 6300 through 6312 and with minimal language supports for 6315 and 6316. These latter two codes are for students who need less language support than students assigned the previous codes. The WIDA levels match the information in [state board policy 3.207](#).

8. Can the WIDA Screener be used for placement of ELs?

A screener tool is not as accurate as a summative assessment. When only screener data is available the placement decision should be considered preliminary and revisited as needed.

Elementary School Questions

9. I have a third grade student who will need multiple times of the day to be coded as EL; is this okay?

Yes, a third grade student can use the code 6303 multiple times throughout the day as long as they are also enrolled in ELA. Once the student becomes a fourth grader, they must use the fourth grade code, 6304.

10. Course codes 6300 to 6308 say that an EL must be enrolled in the ELA class also. What if a district pulls the EL from science or art for ESL services?

ESL is a specialized version of ELA. ESL instruction serves as the core ELA instruction for ELs at a beginning and low intermediate level (3.4 and below on WIDA). If you are pulling the student from science and social studies, then that EL would already be enrolled in ELA. It is essential that all ELs are exposed to grade-level ELA standards.

11. Should elementary ELs take ELA assessments?

Elementary ELs should take the ELA assessment in grades 3-8. Elementary ELs should be coded with ELA and ESL so that ELs are being exposed to ELA grade-level standards and that the appropriate assessment is being provisioned for TNReady.

High School Questions

12. Which ELD courses may count toward two of the four English graduation requirement?

Course codes 6309 (ELD 9) and 6310 (ELD 10) may count toward two of the four English graduation requirements. If a student uses 6309 in the ninth grade and 6310 in the 10th grade, they must then take English I or English II in the 11th grade, as all students are required to take at least one ELA assessment in high school.

13. If a student enters high school with a WIDA level 1 or 2, what could their course progression look like?

Grade	Course Code(s)	Credits Earned	Graduation Requirement	English Credit
9	6309 (ELD 9)	ELA- 1	Yes	Yes
10	6310 (ELD 10)	ELA- 1	Yes	Yes
11	6311 (ELD 11) 3001 (English I)	Humanities Elective- 1 ELA- 1	Yes	Yes- English I
12	6312 (ELD 12) 3002 (English II)	Humanities Elective- 1 ELA- 1	Yes	Yes- English II

This course progression shows that an EL would be taught English I standards in the ninth grade, English II standards in the 10th grade, and then English I standards again in the 11th grade. In the 11th grade, the student would take the English I assessment. The English standards would be taught in conjunction with the WIDA ELD standards. Additional sample course progressions are available in the webinar posted in [ePlan's TDOE Resources](#) under English Learner Resources.

14. Are all high school ELs required to be in high school English each of the four years?

No, there are many progressions possible for high school ELs. Up to two year of ESL in high school count for 2 of the 4 required ESL classes needed for graduation requirements if a student has a WIDA proficiency of 1 to 3.4. If a student takes 6309 in ninth grade and 6310 in 10th grade, in 11th grade the student must take either English I or English II to meet federal assessment requirement.

15. How are sheltered English courses coded?

Sheltered courses require the teacher to be dually endorsed in ESL and the content area such as English. A sheltered English I course is recommended for ELs when the level is 3.4 or below and when possible in your district. The sheltered English course is coded as English I.

16. What if the student needs to use ESL credits for English III or English IV this year?

The new course codes are not for 2017-18; they are for 2018-19. Credit can be given for any English course this school year. Keep in mind that only two ESL credits may substitute for two English credits. Beginning in 2018-19, all ELs must take either English I or English II, since federal requirements require that ELs be tested at least once in high school for ELA.

17. Will there be specific guidelines for student placement into high school courses that are tied to a student's WIDAACCESS score, or will the teachers have some discretion in making the decision?

Generally, students who are below a 3.5 on WIDA have difficulty accessing the content of a literature-based English class without strong scaffolding. Language supports must be differentiated for the student's needs. Therefore, other criteria need to be considered. Counselors and teacher should consider social, emotional, and linguistic factors when making this decision.

18. Could the department create ESL course codes similar to ALT course codes?

No, the ALT standards allow for a student to receive an ALT diploma. The ESL program expects ELs to be tested on the same assessments based on the same standards as non-ELs.