

RISEING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

ESL Rule Scenarios

Dr. Hannah Gribble

*Title III and Migrant Education Program Grant Manager,
Office of Federal Programs and Oversight*

August 2026



© Tennessee Department of Education

DISCLAIMER

Generative AI Tools

The **State of Tennessee does not currently permit the use of Generative AI tools**, such as Otter, in meetings hosted on state resources. Meetings with contractors, vendors, and subrecipients are not public meetings and may involve discussion of protected state data.

Generative AI tools are not adequately regulated and are designed to train on data that is collected and may misrepresent data or release protected data to the general public.

While the State supports your desire to maintain documentation of the meeting and what you learn, **please respect our decision to safeguard information** and do not attempt to use tools such as these. If you choose to use a tool such as this, the State will block that tool from the meeting.



RISING TOGETHER



Guiding Every Student Higher

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Anti-Discrimination Policies and Practices

Retention

- A 3rd grade English Learner has been in the US school system since mid-Kindergarten and didn't score proficient on TCAP. Do I have to retain this student?



Enrollment

- Can we require proof of a student's citizenship at enrollment?



Placement

- We received an 8 year old who has never been to school. Do we put them in Kindergarten?



RISING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Identification, Screening, and Service Delivery

Home Language Survey (HLS)

Question 1

- A student registered yesterday and we received records today. We gave them an HLS as part of our new student packet but they have one in their file. Which do we keep?



Home Language Survey Question 2

- A student came to our LEA with two HLSs in the file, do I keep both?



Home Language Survey Question 3

- A student came to us from another Tennessee LEA with a pre-k HLS. What do we do?



Home Language Survey Question 4

- The parents speak Gujarati at home but the student doesn't speak it. Do we have to screen him?



Screening Question 1

- We received a student who wasn't in ESL in another LEA but we think they need the extra help. Can we pull them in? Can we rescreen?



Screening Question 2

- We received a student from New York who was already in ESL. Do we have to screen with ELPA?



Scheduling Question 1

- Can we tailor services for a student who made three 4s and one 3?



Scheduling Question 2

- My ESL teacher doesn't have time to co-plan with every grade level. Can she co-teach with one grade level and pull out the rest?



Scheduling Question 3

- A student with multiple needs doesn't have time in the schedule for a full hour of ESL. Can we shorten this with the IEP team?



Scheduling Question 4

- Can an Educational Assistant provide ESL services?



ILPs

- Can I put "pass the class" as a goal in the ILP?



RISING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Parental Notification and Rights

Indirect ESL Services Question 1

- We have a family who waives services every year. Do we have to have them complete the form every year?



Indirect ESL Services Question 2

- We have a family who waives services every year but the child is making no gains on ELPA. What should we do?



RISING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Staffing Ratios

Ratio

- Do I have to count W, T1, and T2 in my ratio since they don't receive services?



Class Size

- Can my high school teacher have 40 ELs in a class period since I don't have enough teachers?



Teachers

- If I don't have enough teachers, can I put a sub in the ESL classroom?



RISING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Exit Process

Reclassification Question 1

- We have a student who was in ESL for 4 years and isn't making progress. We think he has a learning disability. Can we rescreen? Can we take him out of ESL?



Reclassification Question 2

- I have a T1 who really needs the accommodations on TCAP, can I pull this student back into ESL so he can have read aloud?



RISING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Other

Teacher Scheduling

- My teacher doesn't have enough time for lunch and travel between schools; can I combine those?



Title III Funds Question 1

- Should I purchase a bilingual dictionary for all my ELs?



Title III Funds Question 2

- Should I purchase a translation device for all my ELs? For the office?



Title III Funds Question 3

- Should I purchase a translation device for the office?



Student Suspected of a Disability

- How long should I wait before saying I suspect an EL of having a disability?



Computer Programs

- Can I use _____ (computer program) to provide services in the general ed classroom for part of the required service time?



Translation

- TNPULSE doesn't have a specific translation that a family needs. Can I just give them the English version since PULSE doesn't have it?





RISING TOGETHER

 Guiding Every Student Higher 

2026 Federal Programs Institute

Resources

Title III Resources

- [Identification and Screening for ELs Guidance](#)
- [ESL Parent Notification Guidance](#)
- [ESL Tailored Services Guidance](#)
- [ILP Requirements for ELs](#)
- [Annotated ILP Oversight Plan](#)
- [Acceptable Classroom Use of Electronic Translation Devices](#)
- [ESL Quarterly Monitoring Guidance](#)
- [ESL Exit Process Guidance](#)
- [ESL Annual Training for Teachers Guidance](#)
- [Annotated ESL Reclassification Procedure](#)
- [ESL Staffing Ratio Guidance](#)
- [ESL Manual](#)

.....

Hannah Gribble

Title III and Migrant Program Grant Manager
Hannah.Gribble@tn.gov



Permission is granted to use and copy these materials for non-commercial educational purposes with attribution credit to the "Tennessee Department of Education". If you wish to use the materials for reasons other than non-commercial educational purposes, please contact the office of general counsel at (615) 741-2921.



ESL Team

Federal
Programs &
Oversight

Dr. Hannah Gribble,
Title III and Migrant
Education Program
Grant Manager

CFA and allowable expenditures
Compliance to ESL Rule and Policy
Compliance with Federal Guidelines
ESL Staffing Ratio Survey
TELLSA

Assessment,
Accountability, &
Research

Nancy Williams,
Special Populations
Assessment
Manager

ELPA21
ELPA21 Screener
Alt ELPA
Alt ELPA Screener
Assessment Accommodations

Special Education and
Student Support

Joann Runion, Senior
Director of Student Support

ILP
Instructional
Support

Supervises: EL Instructional
Programming, RTI, and
Characteristics of Dyslexia

Raven Cleveland,
Manager of English
Learner Strategy

ESL instructional programming
Course Codes
ESL Instruction

**Please share your
feedback from this
session.**

You may also complete the
feedback survey at the link below.

[2026 Federal Programs Institute Session
Feedback Form](#)



RISING TOGETHER



Guiding Every Student Higher

2026 Federal Programs Institute

What's Next | 2:35 – 3:45 p.m.

- Ed-Flex in Tennessee (Room 3)
- Common ESSA Findings & Strategies for Success (Room 4)
- Title III Director Panel (Room 5)
- Navigating Federal Civil Rights and State Law (Room 6)
- Student Homelessness Interactive Learning (Room 9/10)