

Additional ESL Teacher

Meridian Board of Education

Introduction

English learners (ELs), also called multilingual learners or multilinguals, are students whose proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and understanding English may hamper their ability to successfully achieve in an English speaking classroom. ELs and their families come from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and the vast majority of Meridian's EL students come from Spanish speaking homes.

A teacher with an ESL PK-12 endorsement is qualified to teach ESL classes within the grade range of the PEL. For example, an individual who holds a PEL endorsed in elementary education 1-6 and an ESL PK-12 endorsement may only teach ESL in the elementary grades 1-6.

Background

We have 7 teachers in the district with ESL teaching certification. Megan Zamora is our designated ESL teacher, however, she also teaches Spanish at the high school for half of her time. The other certified staff are currently serving in other roles.

Student Population

Meridian's EL population has increased over the past eight years and seems to be maintaining larger numbers of students throughout the district.

EL Program Population Projection

	PK	K	1st	2nd	HES	3rd	4th	5th	MC	6th	7th	8th	MJHS	9th	10th	11th	12th	SVHS	TOTAL
FY 24	5	3	6	5	19	4	6	8	18	8	3	7	18	4	10	3	4	21	76
FY 25	2	5	3	6	14	5	4	6	15	8	8	3	19	7	4	10	3	24	74
FY 26			5	3	8	6	5	4	15	6	8	8	22	3	7	4	10	24	71 + K
FY 27				5	5	3	6	5	14	4	6	8	18	8	3	7	4	22	
FY 28						5	3	6	14	5	4	6	15	8	8	3	7	26	
FY 29							5	3	8	6	5	4	15	6	8	8	3	25	
FY 30								5	5	3	6	5	14	4	6	8	8	26	
FY 31										5	3	6	14	5	4	6	8	23	
FY 32											5	3	8	6	5	4	6	21	
FY 33												5	5	3	6	5	4	18	
FY 34														5	3	6	5	19	

*based on no- move in/move out and no students exited

Prior Staffing vs Current

In the 2016-2017 SY, there were 3 certified ESL teachers employed by Meridian. After two of those teachers left the district, they were not replaced, and only one itinerant ESL teacher is currently employed (Ms. Zamora).

Legal Requirements

Based on requirements for providing services for ELs, any school with a population larger than 20 students with the same home language must offer instruction in that language as well as English language support. This year, we are very close to this threshold at the high school. The new Spanish for Spanish-speakers course would meet the requirement for those students who are enrolled. However, additional staff would be necessary to appropriately meet the needs of ELs in the district.

Meridian 223 Historical EL Population Numbers

2018-19 = 46 students

2019-20 = 51

2021-22 = 57

2022-23 = 65 (MZ began teaching Spanish at SVHS)

2023-24 = 76

2024-25 = 74

Current population analysis

School	Total	IEP	Needs First Language Support	Refusals
HES	16	2	2	0
MC	20	8	1	3
MJHS	17	3	1	1
SVHS	21	4	1	3
District	74	17	5	7
District Percentages		22%	6.7%	9.4%

Conclusion

Due to the large and increasing EL student population in the school district, we are adding an additional ESL (Spanish bilingual preferred) teaching position. This will allow us to better serve our multilingual students and improved academic achievement is expected.

Dr. Michael Plourde