

2025-2026 ESOL COMPLIANCE GUIDE

The following information is provided to answer questions about ESOL compliance for educators.

IDENTIFY YOUR CATEGORY AND DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION

Determine your category based on the subject(s) you teach:

Category	Who does this apply to?	Requirement	Deadline for Experienced Teacher	Deadline for Beginning Teacher
Category 1	Language Arts/English, Developmental Language Arts, Intensive Reading, or Reading.	ESOL Endorsement OR ESOL K-12 Certification	Endorsement within 6 years OR ESOL K-12 within 3 years	Endorsement within 6 years OR ESOL K-12 within 3 years
Category 2	Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, or Computer Literacy	60 in-service points OR 1 ESOL course	1 year	2 years
Category 3	Elective Teachers	18 in-service points OR 1 ESOL course	1 year	2 years
Category 4	Administrator or Guidance Counselor	60 in-service points OR 1 ESOL course	Hires prior to September 5, 2003: 3 years to complete from September 5, 2003	Hires after September 5, 2003: 3 years to complete from date hired as school administrator or guidance counselor.

CATEGORY 1: ELA/READING/DLA TEACHERS

This applies to teachers responsible for Language Arts, English, Developmental Language Arts, Intensive Reading, or Reading.

You must choose one of the following options:

OPTION 1: ESOL Endorsement	OPTION 2: ESOL K-12 Certification
Complete the five (5) ESOL Endorsement classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Applied Linguistics- Cross-Cultural Communication- ESOL Curriculum- Methods of Teaching ESOL- Testing and Evaluation of ESOL	- Take two (2) of the five (5) endorsement courses - Pass the ESOL K-12 Subject Area Exam (SAE) (Register at: http://www.fl.nesinc.com/)
When you obtain the ESOL Endorsement, you also bank 300 points that you may use for future certificate renewals in any area.	Once you get the ESOL K-12 Certification, you keep it on your Florida educator's certificate if you've completed 120 ESOL in-service points or two (2) ESOL college classes before recertification. This must be done within three (3) years of adding the subject to your teaching certificate.

Important:

When a Category 1 teacher who is not certified or endorsed in ESOL is assigned to teach an active ELL student, they are considered out of field (OOF). The teacher must work toward ESOL endorsement/certification, regardless of whether they have ESOL students in subsequent years. Starting in 2011-2012, Category 1 teachers must complete all ESOL training requirements within six years, including 60 in-service hours in the first two years and 60 hours each year afterward. Teachers can take more hours but cannot skip years or double up, aiming for continuous training to become proficient quickly and support ELL students.

Category 1 teachers MUST add the ESOL Endorsement or ESOL Certification to their teaching certificate to be in compliance.

CATEGORY 2: MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, COMPUTER LITERACY

This applies to a **secondary education teacher** who teaches Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, or Computer Literacy.

- Complete 60 ESOL in-service points OR 1 ESOL Endorsement course

Category 2 teachers CANNOT add the 60 ESOL in-service points to their certificate; an in-service transcript will document compliance.

CATEGORY 3: ELECTIVES (ART, MUSIC, PE, ETC.)

This applies to **elective teachers** not in Categories 1, 2, or 4 (e.g., Art, Music, Physical Education, Media Specialists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Foreign Language teachers, etc.).

- Complete 18 ESOL in-service points OR 1 ESOL Endorsement course

Category 3 teachers CANNOT add the 18 ESOL in-service points to their certificate; an in-service transcript will document compliance.

CATEGORY 4: ADMINISTRATORS / GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

This applies only to **administrators and guidance counselors**.

- Complete 60 ESOL in-service points OR 1 ESOL Endorsement course

Category 4 teachers CANNOT add the 60 ESOL in-service points to their certificate; an in-service transcript will document compliance.

WHERE CAN I TAKE ESOL COURSES?

Free ESOL professional development courses are available on Canvas. This year's options are listed at  [SLPS ESOL Courses \(Canvas\)](#). Register through the Frontline calendar in the registration section dates.

Additional approved providers include:

- Beacon Educator
 - o <https://www.beaconeducator.com/default.aspx>
- Schultz Center
 - o <https://schultzcenter.org/esol/>
- Florida Teachers of Tomorrow
 - o Email Teach@FloridaTeachers.org
- North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC)
 - o <http://www.nefec.org/events/>

TRANSCRIPT & CERTIFICATION HELP

Any ESOL in-service or coursework completed outside St. Lucie Public Schools **MUST** be added to the teacher's in-service transcript on Frontline.

For questions regarding your Frontline transcript, please contact Sabrina Mastronicola in Talent Development at Sabrina.Mastronicola@stlucieschools.org or 772-429-3940.

Contact Stacy Black at Stacy.Black@stlucieschools.org or 772-429-7512 for instructions to add the ESOL Endorsement to a Florida educator's certificate.

NOTES

- For ESOL Endorsement only - 3 semester hours or 60 in-service credits are required within two years of starting LEP student Language Arts instruction. Then, each subsequent year, the teacher must earn the same, until a total of 15 semester hours or 300 in-service credit points have been earned.
- All district-level administrators must train in the Consent Decree, Cross-Cultural communications, and delivering understandable instruction, but no specific in-service points or hours are mandated.
- As per K12 Memo 2006-121 and the Florida Course Code Directory, teachers teaching Developmental Language Arts or Reading to ELLs must obtain the ESOL Endorsement. Additionally, teachers teaching Developmental Language Arts instead of Intensive Reading need the Reading Endorsement by the beginning of the 2007-08 school year.