

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (DELA) PARENT NEWSLETTER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ISSUE

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
ACQUISITION (DELA)

The purpose of the newsletter is to familiarize the community with our department and to offer information helpful to parents. We are the Department of English Language Acquisition, also known as DELA. Our office is located at 6531 Boeing Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, or comments.

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**Important Points to Remember**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has impacted Limited English Language Proficiency (LEP) students in areas of accountability. The major goals of Title III of NCLB are to:

- Help ensure that LEP students attain English proficiency.
- Develop high levels of academic competence in English.
- Meet the same challenging state academic standards that all students are expected to meet.

EPISD is adhering to these mandates by implementing the Accelerated English Transition Model and the English Transition Model (AETM & ETM). In addition, each campus has a Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) that reviews students' progress on a regular basis.

**QUICK TIP!**

TAKE BOOKS EVERYWHERE AND MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MINUTE! VISIT:

K [www.aplaceofourown.org](http://www.aplaceofourown.org)

K [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org)

K [www.elpasotexas.gov/library](http://www.elpasotexas.gov/library)

**BENEFITS OF THE BILINGUAL  
PROGRAM**

" HELPS STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY KEEP THE ACADEMIC PACE NECESSARY FOR THEIR GRADE LEVEL WHILE THEY LEARN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

" TEACHES FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS IN SPANISH WHILE THE STUDENTS LEARN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE THROUGH ACADEMICS

**HOW WILL THE PROGRAM HELP MY  
CHILD?**

■ PROVIDES ACCESS TO STATE CURRICULUM

■ TEACHES ENGLISH TO LEP STUDENTS USING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) METHODOLOGY

■ HELPS BUILD KNOWLEDGE OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS IN THE FIRST LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH

■ INSTILLS SELF-ASSURANCE, CONFIDENCE, AND CULTURAL PRIDE IN STUDENTS

**WILL MY CHILD LEARN ENGLISH?**

\* THE MASTERY OF ENGLISH READING, SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND WRITING IS REQUIRED IN THE PROGRAM

\* ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION BEGINS IN THE STUDENT'S FIRST LANGUAGE AND TRANSITIONS INTO ENGLISH

\* ESL INSTRUCTION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

**BEGIN READING TO YOUR CHILD AT AN EARLY AGE! READ IN SPANISH. SELECT BOOKS FOR YOUR PRESCHOOLERS. LOOK FOR . . .**

\* LIVELY RHYMES AND REPETITION THAT CHILDREN CAN REPEAT AND REMEMBER

\* STORIES THAT REVIEW BASIC CONCEPTS, SUCH AS LETTERS, NUMBERS, SHAPES AND COLORS

\* SIMPLE, FUN PLOTS.



**Available  
Soon! Look  
for us on the  
Web!**

You will be able to  
access information  
and resources on the  
DELA site at  
[www.episd.org](http://www.episd.org)

## Helpful Hints for Parents

- 3 Be active in and knowledgeable about your child's school
- 3 Establish a quiet, well-lit homework area
- 3 Provide a bilingual dictionary (example: Spanish-English)
- 3 Set a specific time for homework
- 3 Set aside time for the whole family to read together
- 3 Have conversations with your children about their daily activities
- 3 Set standards and expectations for children
- 3 Make structure, routine, and punctuality priorities in your home
- 3 Set the example for your children by being an active reader
- 3 Encourage the use of English
- 3 Praise academic success and the benefits of being literate in more than one language

## Preparing Your Child for TAKS

The state of Texas requires that all students take the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) starting in Third grade. If your child will be taking the TAKS test, there are many things you can do at home to help him or her be successful.

- J Carefully monitor your child's progress throughout the school year
- J Stay in contact with your child's teacher
- J Ask for tutoring if you feel it is needed

- J Encourage good homework habits
- J Make sure your child gets plenty of rest on a daily basis and especially on the night before the test
- J Make sure your child is in the habit of eating a good breakfast every day and especially on the day of the test
- J Encourage your child to do his or her best to pass the test
- J Create a positive and peaceful atmosphere for your child at home

The TAKS testing schedule for 2007 is as follows:

**Tuesday, February 20**  
Grade 3 and 5 – Reading  
Grade 4 - Writing

**Tuesday, April 3**  
Grade 5 - Math

**Tuesday, April 17**  
Grades 3 and 4 - Math

**Wednesday, April 18**  
Grade 4 - Reading

**Thursday, April 19**  
Grade 5 - Science



## Talking with Your Child's Teacher

A successful parent teacher conference should be a productive two-way exchange of information. You should start with the positive and state that you have questions.

- \*Make a list of questions to ask
- \*Ask for specifics
- \*Focus on solutions
- \*Take notes
- \*Be conversational in style
- \*Avoid becoming defensive

**Upcoming Elementary  
Parent/Teacher  
Conference Day:**

**March 28, 2007**

\*Remember to set up an appointment with the teacher

The El Paso ISD does not discriminate in its educational programs or employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, or on any other basis prohibited by law. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, IX, and 504 may be referred to the district compliance officer, Vince Sheffield, at 779-4074; 504 inquires regarding students may be referred to Cecilia Whiteman at 775-2109.