

It is our vision that all English Language Learners (ELL) in the Hood River County School District understand, speak, read and write English fluently in order to succeed academically and socially in their classrooms, schools and communities. We believe it is the shared responsibility of all educators, schools, parents and students to ensure ELLs develop the skills necessary to fully participate in academically challenging programs that enrich their lives beyond graduation and to access all aspects of post-secondary opportunities. We recognize that our programs must embrace and build upon the unique cultural and linguistic characteristics that students and families bring to the learning community.

Instructional Services

The goals of our educational programs are to develop social and academic proficiency in English, achieve grade level standards and encourage the continued use of their first language as a resource for learning and success. ELL instruction is designed to develop English language proficiency and support academic content knowledge. Individual needs are respected and accommodated through the systemic use of instructional methods that foster high academic achievement. Programs promote accelerated academic achievement and enrichment and function in unison with other educational programs while in compliance with all state and federal guidance. District staff works together to build comprehensive programs that ensure equity and student achievement. ELL students are proportionately represented in all school programs and services. They become confident learners and are empowered through the development of critical thought, reflection and action through meaningful access and participation in rigorous programs based on research-based best practices aligned with common core standards.

Professional Development

ELL staff and content teachers are prepared to work collaboratively to effectively educate ELLs. Classroom teachers are consistently trained to provide quality sheltered/differentiated instruction in all content areas. The district supports regular professional learning for ELL teachers that provides them with resources and materials to enhance their instruction and methods. All teachers are able to make meaningful content connections and accurately assess students' performance and educational needs. All staff is highly qualified and feels confident working with ELLs in their classrooms.

Cultural and Community Values

ELL students and families are valued members of our community. The HRSCD embraces the exchange of culture knowledge, encourages and supports the acquisition of language and appreciation of culture and ensures that cultural backgrounds of students are respected and reflected in all educational and extracurricular settings. The HRCSD provides welcoming opportunities for ELL families to become involved in school and district activities as well as promotes participation in leadership and decision-making roles. The district assures that all ELL students and their families have equal access to school and community resources and supports outreach to the community in order to benefit students, improve instruction and strengthen collaboration. We continually strive to preserve our students' heritage (linguistically and culturally) while expanding their skills and knowledge in order to achieve success in our diverse society.