

## Why is vocabulary so important?

Vocabulary is the key to your child understanding what is heard and read in school and for communicating successfully with other people. For this reason it is very important to quickly build descriptive, technical, and precise language. Research studies have shown strong links between having an extensive vocabulary and achieving school success.

## How can I help my child learn vocabulary?

- Encourage your child to read! Reading is the simplest and fastest way to build vocabulary.
- Make vocabulary study cards with your child and practice them at home.
- Talk to your child about what is learned in school to help reinforce academic vocabulary.
- Play word games, such as Scattergories®, Boggle®, Scrabble®, and Hangman.

## How do parents get involved?

- Attend school and district ELL events and meetings. Ideas from parents will improve services to children and families!
- Support English language acquisition at home by utilizing strategies learned from ELL staff.
- Ask the school to provide an interpreter when necessary at school meetings and events

## Addressing Concerns and Complaints

Under state and federal civil rights laws, you have the right to access information in your language. If you have concerns about the school's interpretation or translation services - or if you were not offered an interpreter or translation you needed, you have several options.

1. Talk with your principal or a school employee you are comfortable with.
2. Talk with your school district, including Karl Olson at 360-618-6210 or [kolson@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:kolson@asd.wednet.edu)
3. Ask for help resolving your concerns from this agency.

Equity and Civil Rights Office Office of the Educational  
Office of Supt. of Public Instr. Ombudsman  
360-725-6162 206-729-3251  
[www.k12.wa.us/equity\\_oeo.wa.gov](http://www.k12.wa.us/equity_oeo.wa.gov)

4. You can file a complaint, in writing, and send it to the district by mail, e-mail, or hand delivery in any language.

## DISTRICT NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX/SEX EQUITY OFFICER AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR  
Mr. Eric DeJong  
Executive Director, Human Resources  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6212  
[edejong@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:edejong@asd.wednet.edu)

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING (HIB) COMPLIANCE OFFICER  
Ms. Kerri Helgeson  
Director of Equity and Student Well-Being  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6228  
[khelgeson@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:khelgeson@asd.wednet.edu)

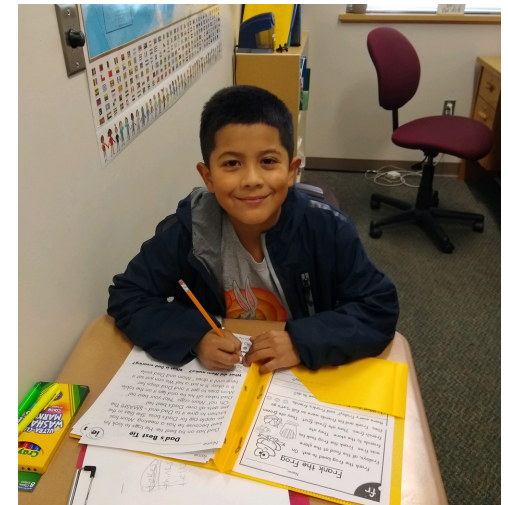
SECTION 504/ADA COORDINATOR  
Mr. Dave McKellar  
Director of Special Education  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360.618.6209  
[dmckellar@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:dmckellar@asd.wednet.edu)



# ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATE • PREPARE • INSPIRE

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN ARLINGTON: WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



UPDATED SEPTEMBER OF 2023

## ELL Program Description

- All qualified students receive supports in learning English and accessing the content taught in their classes.
- Elementary students receive supports from trained staff in small groups and within the general education classroom.
- Middle and high school students receive supports from trained staff within the general education classroom and, if eligible, within a specifically designed class period.

## How do students qualify for Arlington's ELL program?

When students enroll in Arlington Public Schools, parents are asked "What language did your child learn first?" and "What language does your child use the most at home?" If the answer is any language other than English, the student takes the WIDA Screener Placement Test. Students who qualify based on the Placement Test are eligible to receive additional help to improve their English.

## How long do students receive services through the ELL program?

Students continue in the program as long as they need help learning English. The WIDA ACCESS Annual Test is given to measure student's growth in English language knowledge and skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students successfully transition from the program when they meet the exit criteria on the WIDA.

## Meet Our ELL Staff

Karl Olson

Director of Categorical Programs  
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karl.olson@asd16.org

Dorcy Neuman

K-8 ELL Coordinator  
dorcy.neuman@asd16.org

Kim Contreras

9-12 ELL Coordinator  
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Jeannette Reid

High School Interpreter-Tutor  
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jeannette.reid@asd16.org

Lorencita Muniz

Middle School Interpreter-Tutor  
360-618-6449 - Spanish  
lorencita.muniz@asd16.org

Marta Ledesma-Garcia

Eagle Creek Interpreter-Tutor  
360-618-6446 - Spanish  
marta.ledesma-garcia@asd16.org

Nataliya Kushner

Russian and Ukrainian Interpreter-Tutor  
360-618-6445  
nataliya.kushner@asd16.org

Mariana Zamora-Santos

Pioneer Interpreter-Tutor  
360-618-6448 - Spanish  
mariana.zamorasantos@asd16.org

Melliam Rodriguez Ortiz

Presidents and Kent Prairie Interpreter Tutor -  
Spanish  
360-618-6447  
melliam.rodriguezortiz@asd16.org

## Reading is important.

Educational researchers have found that there is a strong correlation between reading and academic success. In other words, a student who is a good reader is more likely to do well in school and pass exams than a student who is a weak reader.

Tips for improving reading:

- Turn on closed captioning when watching TV and movies at home.
- Encourage all reading. Comic books and magazines can provide a good reading experience.
- Discuss the books your child is reading. Ask your child what the author's main theme is, or how the characters are alike or different.
- Look for audio books to supplement what your child is reading. Listening along is an easy and fun way to become a better reader.

## Family English Classes

We will be offering free English language classes to parents and guardians of ELL qualified students. This class will be provided within one of our district schools and will also provide tips on how to support your child with their education. Information will be provided to families about registration approximately one month before each class is offered.

