

English Language Learning Program

Gower values the linguistic and cultural diversity that our students bring to our schools.

- Approximately 44% of our students come from homes where a language other than English is spoken.
- More than 36 different languages are spoken in the homes of our students.

Slightly more than 8% of our students are English Learners and are provided specialized services through the English Language Learning (ELL) Program.

The Gower 62 ELL Program has an English as a Second Language (ESL) or Transitional Program of Instruction at both Gower West Elementary and Gower Middle School. English Learners are assigned to a general education classroom and an ESL teacher provides support within the classroom or by meeting with individual or small groups of students. The amount of specialized instruction a student receives is based upon his/her level of English Language Proficiency.

English as a Second Language (Transitional Program of Instruction)

English as a Second Language (ESL) services are offered in schools in which there are 19 or fewer Limited English Proficient (LEP) students of the same language group.

The goals of the ESL program are:

- To develop English skills while learning grade appropriate academic content.
- To develop academic English language proficiency to assist students in meeting Illinois Learning Standards as well as the Illinois English Language Proficiency Standards.

ESL instruction focuses on the development of both social and academic language in all four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.