

For Immediate Release

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**Williamson County Schools and TESOL Complete Strategic Partnership to
Strengthen ESL Program**

ALEXANDRIA, Va., and FRANKLIN, Tenn., (July 29, 2026) – TESOL International Association (TESOL) and Williamson County Schools (WCS) are proud to announce the completion of a strategic partnership to review the district's English as a Second Language (ESL) program and develop a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen services for multilingual learners of English.

Through this collaboration, TESOL and WCS evaluated current practices, engaged educators and stakeholders, and developed a research-based roadmap to guide the continued growth of multilingual learner services across the district. The initiative reflects WCS's commitment to continuous improvement and ensuring multilingual learners receive equitable access to high-quality instruction and opportunities for academic success. The roadmap included document analysis, stakeholder surveys, classroom observations, focus groups, and the development of a long-term strategic plan aligned with district goals.

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"TESOL is widely recognized as the leading global professional organization for English language teaching," said Joseph Whinery, ESL supervisor and migrant liaison for Williamson County Schools. "WCS has connections with TESOL through the state affiliate (TN TESOL) as well as individual organization memberships. This was a natural bridge to seek the partnership with TESOL in our initiative to look in depth at our ESL program. WCS has a long history of great success with its ESL program, but we are also committed to reflecting on our current practices and looking for opportunities to improve. The work within our ESL program is part of a broader district initiative to improve learning for all our students, specifically those we serve who have unique learning needs."

Williamson County Schools serves approximately **42,000 students** across **52 schools** and has seen the number of students receiving direct ESL services nearly double since 2021. As the district continues to grow, WCS invested in a comprehensive review of its ESL program to ensure its services continue to meet the evolving needs of multilingual learners, educators, and schools.

The partnership is expected to increase collaboration among ESL educators, classroom teachers, administrators, and district leaders while identifying practical recommendations to enhance instruction and student support. By building on existing strengths, WCS aims to ensure multilingual learners have even greater opportunities to develop English proficiency while achieving academic success.

The partnership culminated in the completion of a comprehensive strategic roadmap in June 2026, providing WCS with research-based recommendations to strengthen its ESL program.

For more information about TESOL's district partnerships and professional learning services, please email learn@tesol.org.

About TESOL International Association

TESOL International Association is the trusted global community for knowledge and expertise in English language teaching. TESOL advances professional expertise in English language teaching to speakers of other languages in multilingual contexts worldwide through professional learning, research, standards, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, TESOL values professionalism, respect, integrity, and lifelong learning and seeks diverse and inclusive participation within the field of English language teaching. TESOL

promotes equitable representation, engagement, and broad access to professional opportunities for all and works to eliminate any kind of discrimination. TESOL is a professional community of more than 8,000 English language professionals representing more than 100 countries. To learn more about partnering with TESOL, please visit <https://info.tesol.org/workshops>.

About Williamson County Schools

Williamson County Schools serves approximately 42,000 students in grades Pre-K through 12 across 52 schools in Williamson County, Tennessee. Recognized as one of Tennessee's highest-performing public school districts, WCS is committed to providing an exceptional education that prepares every student for success in college, careers, and life. Through innovative instruction, continuous improvement, and a commitment to equitable learning opportunities, WCS supports the diverse academic and language needs of all students, including its growing population of multilingual learners.

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