

Terms for Students/Programs

ESL-English as a Second Language

ESOL-English for Speakers of Other Languages

ELL(s)-English Language Learners

ENL-Students for whom English is a New Language. The term is used by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

LEP-Limited English Proficient

Terms for Understanding Second Language Acquisition

Culture Shock

A normal stage in the acculturation process that all newcomers go through. Being in a strange place and losing the power to communicate can disrupt a person's world view, self-identity, and systems of thinking, acting and feeling.

The Silent Period

A varying period of time during which a newcomer is unwilling to speak in the second language. This stage could last for as long as one year.

Comprehensible Input

The spoken or written message is delivered at the learner's level of comprehension. Basic concepts should be presented in a variety of ways.

Affective Filter

A "wall" a learner puts up if his/her anxiety level is high. The more comfortable students are in their school environment, the more ready they will be to learn.

BICS

Language skills needed for everyday personal and social communication. It usually takes 1-3 years to completely develop this social language.

CALP

Language associated with native language literacy and cognitive development. It may take students from 5-7 years to develop. If this is developed in first language it contributes to its development in second language.