

**Hansen, Laura**

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**From:** Jury, Tony  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:35 AM  
**To:** Hammond, Larry; Hansen, Laura  
**Subject:** Additional ESL Instructional Aide

Good morning,

Our current ESL population is growing. The district has 80+ students that need language support services. One full-time certified ESL teacher and one ESL instructional aide cannot adequately fulfill the needs of our ESL student population. A portion of this population are new to the United States and cannot understand or speak the English language. This creates communication and learning barriers. These students qualify for tier three interventions which means they receive 60+ minutes per day of one-on-one language learning support. Based on current online enrollment we have at least five of these students. Meeting this need alone will require most of our ESL support providers time each day and may diminish the support we can offer to the majority of the ESL students. A second ESL instructional aide is needed to help provide these crucial supports. The qualifications for this second position would be consistent with the current position **with the addition of bi-lingual capability**. The district will search for an individual that speaks two languages, **English and Spanish**, and can serve as a translator for our non-English speaking students and families. This would provide a tremendous service to all front office staff, teachers, parents and most of all, our students. ESL students are allowed to have translation accommodations on KPREP testing. The service must be provided by a district employee. It cannot be a volunteer or outside translation agency because of test integrity issues that may cause. An additional ESL instructional aide with bi-lingual capabilities could provide this accommodation. A bi-lingual instructional aide would be instrumental in helping our district translate communications for our ESL families.

Currently, the ESL instructional aide position is stationed at the Lower Elementary and focuses on providing supports to K-2 students in an effort to better prepare them at an early age. The certified ESL teacher works in all four schools preparing Personal Service Plans for all ESL students. She meets with every family along with the principals and teachers in developing and monitoring plans. She also assists teachers with providing ESL accommodations in the regular classroom instruction. In addition, like mentioned above, this person provides the one-on-one support for our tier three ESL students. A third member of the team would greatly enhance the effectiveness and range of English Language supports our district can provide.

Sincerely,

Tony Jury  
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Gallatin County Schools  
75 Boardwalk  
Warsaw, Kentucky 41095  
Phone 859-567-1820  
Fax 859-567-4528

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