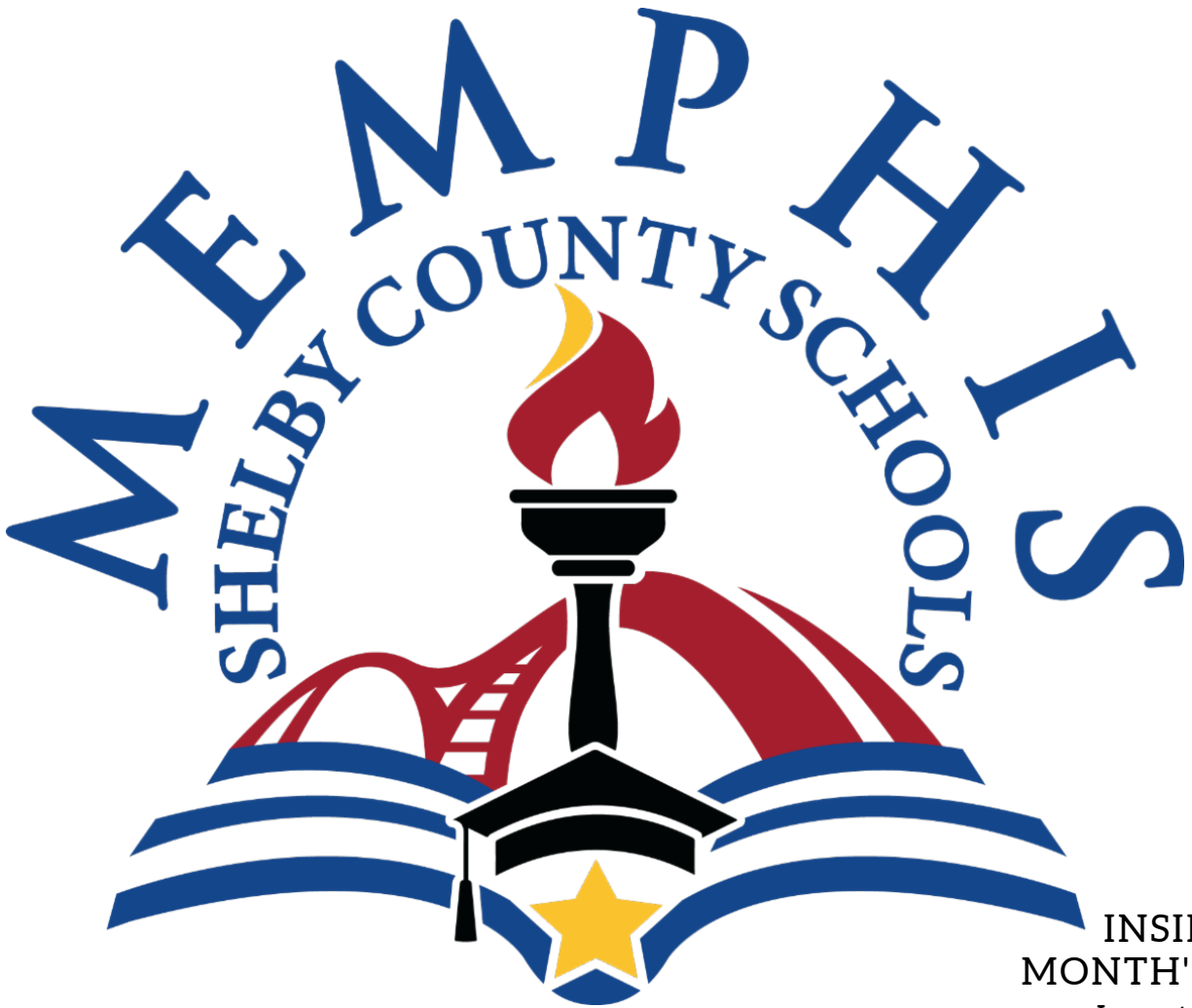


Issue 1 Volume 5

# MULTILINGUAL ENGLISH LEARNER UPDATES

*The official newsletter for families of MSCS Multilingual English Learners*



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## WELCOME FROM THE OFFICE OF MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

As we start a new school year, we want to remind parents of the four main pillars of multilingual families support in MSCS, in which we strive to inform, engage, instruct, and connect.

We inform multilingual families of the instructional and linguistic progress of their children, strategies and techniques for supporting their progress, and how to communicate with faculty and staff at the schools to become partners in enhancing their children's education. We engage multilingual families in events and opportunities to learn about the American school system, educational sessions about how their schools support their child, and learning more about the ESL program and what we do.

We instruct families on how to use district programs and protocols to track their children's progress, communicate needs and concerns, and request assistance when needed. Additionally, we connect multilingual families with community agencies that provide resources, educational programs for children, and training for adults.

We are committed to serving our multilingual families. Please let us know how we are doing and how we can improve with the survey here:

<https://bit.ly/ESLNEWSOPINION>. If you have any questions, call us at 901.416.5411.



“

One benefit of summer was that each day  
we had more light to read by.  
- Jeannette Walls

”

# ESL UPDATES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Important Dates

First Day of School: Monday, August 4, 2025

Labor Day (Students Out): Monday, September 1, 2025

Parent/Teacher Conferences for High Schools: Thursday, September 4, 2025

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Middle Schools: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Elementary Schools: Thursday, September 11, 2025

Hispanic Heritage Month Begins: Monday, September 15, 2025

## TECHNOLOGY TIPS: *PowerSchool*

A PowerSchool account is required to enroll students in school because it provides parents with easy access to other important processes and student information.

PowerSchool is the parents' gateway to be able to:

- Select the preferred language for communication
- Sign up for tutoring
- Access students' grades
- Check the student's attendance
- Complete registration
- Access student forms



### Student and Parent Sign In

Sign In Create Account

Select Language English

Username

Password

Forgot Username or Password?

Sign In

**Memphis Shelby County Schools**  
Parent & Student Portal

If you have any questions regarding registration, we encourage you to contact our  
Office of Student Enrollment at [ichoose@scsk12.org](mailto:ichoose@scsk12.org) or call (901) 416-6007.  
Thank you!  
Memphis-Shelby County Schools

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### **Homework Hotline Information**

Your child can get help with their homework in the following languages at the times listed below.

Spanish  
Arabic  
Hindi  
Farsi  
Swahili

Call  
901.416.1234  
or  
615.298.6636  
4-8 p.m.

Chat available at  
[homeworkhotline.info](https://homeworkhotline.info)  
5-7 p.m.

## **ELPA CORNER**



Multilingual learners use and develop language through speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities to communicate in English. When it's too hot to go outside during these warmer months, watch kid-friendly movies or shows in English with subtitles as a family. Pause at certain points during the movie to ask questions: "What do you think will happen next?" or "Why did the character do that?" Afterward, ask your child to draw, act out, and write a sentence about their favorite scene in English. This will help your child practice all four language domains while at home.

# WHAT IS ESL?

## HOW WILL I FIND OUT MY CHILD'S ELPA21 SCORE?

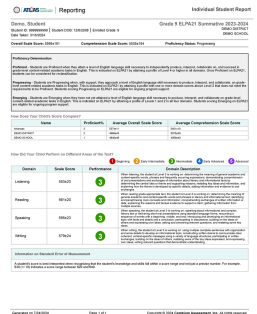
Your school will provide you with a full report of your child's performance on ELPA21. You should receive your child's scores within the first few weeks of school of the 2025-26 school year. There is a picture of what the form looks like below and to the right.

## HOW CAN THESE RESULTS BE USED?

The results will be used to help teachers identify students who need additional support in each language area. The information will also be used to measure how well schools and school districts are helping English learners achieve higher expectations.

## HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN DISCUSSING THE RESULTS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER(S):

- Where is my child doing well, and where does he or she need improvement?
- What can be done in the classroom to help improve his or her area(s) of weakness?
- What can be done to appropriately challenge my child in areas where he or she is close to demonstrating proficiency?
- How can I help support my child's language learning at home?
- How do we ensure that my child continues to progress?



Domain	Score	Proficiency
Listening	10/15	Developing
Reading	10/15	Approaching
Writing	10/15	Approaching

## Diversity Rocks and Makes Us Stronger!

### Coping with Culture Shock

Culture shock is a reaction to the changes and differences encountered when moving to a new location and experiencing a new culture. Students may experience feelings of confusion, anxiety, or even isolation as they navigate unfamiliar customs, expectations, and social dynamics.

Parents can help students cope with culture shock by fostering :



#### Open Communication:

Create a safe space for students to express their feelings about the new environment, both positive and negative. Ask specific questions about their experiences and validate their emotions, avoiding dismissive responses.

#### Build Social Connections:

Encourage students to make friends with both locals and other expatriates. Help them find activities and organizations that align with their interests, such as clubs, faith communities, or sports teams.

#### Familiar Routines and Belongings:

Maintain some familiar routines at home, like family dinners or bedtime stories, and surround them with familiar objects from their old life.

#### Normalize the Experience:

Let them know that culture shock is a normal experience and that many people go through it. Sharing your own experiences with cultural adjustment can be helpful.



# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

## Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

### Steps to Take in High School

- Get to know your High School Counselor.
- Download the PowerSchool App to keep track of your attendance, grades, and credits.
- 22 credits are required to graduate.
- Participate in extracurricular activities to help acquire scholarships.
- Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, internships, honors classes, and Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
- Register for ACT/SAT tutoring and testing. ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org))
- Keep your GPA up!

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Welcome back to another great school year! As part of the community resources section, we want to ensure a successful school year for families and students by informing them that there are two types of libraries to visit: traditional and electronic libraries. Memphis public libraries are dedicated to encouraging everyone, particularly children, to read. Many libraries provide reading programs and much more for school-aged children as well as younger children. Visit Library Finder and input your ZIP code. Then go to your local public library's website and select "children's programs." It will next tell you about the programs in your area that encourage children to read. We also have the Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) to access periodicals, journals, newspapers, essays, e-books, primary source materials, test preparation, homework help, genealogy data, career searches, and other resources. TEL resources are free and accessible from any computer with Internet access in Tennessee.

For more information, click on the QR code below.

Memphis Public Libraries



Electronic Library



## Communication with the School/Teachers

Parents/Guardians, did you know that all teachers have an email address that is shared with students and can often be found on the school's website? Try introducing yourself and your student with an email! Share relevant information and strengths, offer to volunteer to help the class, and ask questions about class assignments and/or expectations. You can also ask your student's ESL teacher for a copy of their Individual Learning Plan (ILP). Many email platforms now include translation features, so don't let a language barrier get in the way of supporting your student.

All schools have a service called LanguageLine, which provides phone-based translation support. Call or visit the school, request an interpreter, and request to speak with your student's teacher. Click here to print out this card to request an interpreter.

I am requesting an interpreter.\_

Please call LanguageLine and ask  
for my language, \_\_Chin(Falam)\_.  
(your language)



Thank you for your help!

## Literacy Corner



### The Importance of Literacy

Literacy plays a tremendous role in a student's life and impacts many aspects of the student's future.

By being able to read and write, students gain the ability, confidence, and willingness to relate to language to obtain, build, and communicate in all aspects of their daily life.

Literacy is a skill that will need to be practiced in every aspect of their life. When reading, children learn to do many things at the same time, such as decoding, reading comfortably and fluently, absorbing new vocabulary, understanding what the text says, and discovering that reading is enjoyable and builds knowledge about the world around them.

Parents, you play such an important part in the student's literary journey. Building literacy at home is all about having fun while still learning and building on the basics. It does not require special tools or specific activities. All it requires is YOU!



### TIPS:

Read aloud regularly.  
Create a cozy reading space  
Turn off distractions.



# GRADUATION COHORT



The Graduation Cohort program informs former ESL high school students of their educational options and right to stay in school until their 22nd birthday. Memphis Virtual Adult High School is continuously accepting applications from students interested in enrolling in virtual school and acquiring their high school diploma.

For more information, please call 901-416-7983 or visit,  
[www.memphisvirtualadulths.org](http://www.memphisvirtualadulths.org).

## SCHOOL OPTIONS:

- Attend Zoned High School (school starts August 4, 2025)
- Virtual School (Limited spaces) - Scheduled Classes
- Virtual Adult School - Asynchronous Learning

## BENEFITS OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- Possibility of going to university.
- Better job opportunities.
- Self-confidence
- Pride in an achievement.

Para más información, póngase en contacto con: **MARIA TEMPLETON, TEMPLETONM@SCSK12.ORG, 901-416-5411**

## Perseverance pays off!

Carlos, a recent high school graduate, had withdrawn from school to support his mother, who was experiencing medical issues. I contacted him in October 2024 to inform him of the opportunity to return to high school and earn his high school diploma. He quickly made the decision to re-enroll at Sheffield High School in November 2024. With hard work and dedication, he received his high school diploma on July 12, 2025. This clearly demonstrates that perseverance pays off!

Congratulations, Carlos!

Summer 2025 Class Greatness is within each of you. You just have to believe it.

