

English as a Second Language (ESL) Trends and Options for Bellevue

A Summary Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

English as a Second Language, or ESL, is English Language instruction for non-native English speakers. Common ESL instructional services include general ESL, Talk Time conversation practice, conversation groups, vocational ESL, college and career readiness classes that prepare students to transition to college credit courses or job settings and citizenship classes.¹ ESL classes are taught by paid staff or volunteers in various locations such as schools, libraries, and community centers.

The demand for ESL instruction in Bellevue continues to rise, as the number of none or limited English speaking Bellevue residents per household increases. According to the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS), about 39% of Bellevue residents speak a language other than English.² The 2013 ACS report indicated that of those Bellevue residents who speak a language other than English, approximately 40% report that they speak English less than “very well.” This represents over 15% of all Bellevue residents aged 5 and over, or over 18,000 total City residents.³

In addition, Bellevue’s population continues to grow in diversity. Bellevue’s Diversity Advantage Plan reports that Bellevue’s population is comprised of 42% minorities. Asian and Hispanic/Latino have been the fastest growing populations.⁴ Also, in the Bellevue population numbers, the plan indicates 34% of its residents are foreign born which ranks Bellevue as the second highest numerically and 16th highest by percentage (33%) of foreign born residents out of Washington State’s 281 incorporated cities. Tukwila and SeaTac were the only cities in King County with a higher percentage.⁵

In the attempts to meet the need for ESL services for Bellevue’s diverse community, there are a variety of ESL classes and programs in Bellevue. In Bellevue, some of the seven levels of general ESL classes are offered as well as conversation practice, vocational ESL, and citizenship classes. This report describes the classes and programs offered by the following agencies: Bellevue College, Bellevue Regional Library (King County Library System), Bellevue School District, Hopelink, Jewish Family Service, and Jubilee Reach Center. In 2015, the City of Bellevue funded four ESL programs, totaling over \$260,037 in support.

A challenge in ESL service delivery in Bellevue is to coordinate the effort of the multiple providers to ensure that the appropriate services are provided, and that they are sufficiently advertised and accessed. There are some collaboration efforts in Bellevue. There is a Consortium made up of the five major adult literacy providers in North and East King County:

¹ ESL Methods and Approaches. Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. 2012.

² U.S. Census Bureau 2013, American Community Survey Bellevue Washington.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The Bellevue Diversity Advantage Plan. 2014.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau 2013, American Community Survey Bellevue Washington.

Bellevue College, Hopelink, Lake Washington and Renton Technical Colleges, and Cascadia Community College. The Consortium collaborates in referral, recruitment, instruction, and development activities to streamline unduplicated services, increase the range of literacy and support services, and improve student access. Collaboration efforts also involve sharing test scores, referring across agencies, and coordinating with the library system.

Another challenge is that due to the high volume of foreign born and the diversity of spoken languages, English as a Second Language programs are highly sought out. However, there are not always enough slots to fill the demand.

Moreover, the new Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act (WIOA) has created additional challenges in the Bellevue community because federal funding is no longer funding life skill courses that were offered at Bellevue College. This funding trend has created a pressing need for local providers to fill the gap for the ESL community that is seeking conversation groups, and/or life skills.

BACKGROUND

What is ESL?

English as a Second Language, known as ESL, is defined as “English language instruction for adults who are nonnative speakers of English. Adult ESL is used to describe various types of instructional services for adults who do not speak English.”⁶ Common instructional services include life skills or general ESL classes, Talk Time conversation practice, conversation groups, vocational ESL, and citizenship classes.

Types of ESL classes

ESL classes can be categorized into five types:

1. General ESL classes

- Formal, structured classes with beginning to advanced levels
- Focus on the development of general English language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Students are evaluated and placed in appropriate level
- State-approved competency-based curriculum
- Use of texts, reading and writing
- Taught by paid teachers and volunteers

Beginning to advanced levels of ESL classes are categorized in levels one through seven. Below is the U.S. Department of Education national standard ESL levels:⁷

⁶ ESL Resources: Frequently Asked Questions. Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. 2012.

⁷ English Language Proficiency Levels. 2015:
<http://ell.dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/ell/pdf/elp-levels.pdf>

Level 1:	Beginning ESL Literacy
Level 2:	Beginning ESL Low
Level 3:	Beginning ESL High
Level 4:	Intermediate Low
Level 5:	Intermediate High
Level 6:	Advanced Low
Level 7:	Advanced High

ESL classes are often taught in the context of life skills and functions of daily life, such as going to the doctor, getting a job, shopping, public transportation, or managing money.⁸

Classes vary in their format and structure. Some classes involve outside assignments, while others do not. Class sizes vary, as do the qualifications of the staff and volunteers. Some classes require participants to attend regularly, while others do not require regular attendance. Some programs require initial screening to test into a level, while others allow students to self-select. Testing to complete classes or to advance to the next level are not practiced universally.

2. Talk Time Groups

- Facilitated formal conversation with no reading or writing
- Students at all levels of English
- Usually facilitated by volunteers

Talk Time groups are generally led by volunteer facilitators who work in small groups with participants. The conversations are in a social setting, in a non-critical and accepting environment to help participants feel comfortable speaking English. Talk Time sessions focus on student generated themes such as emergencies, the library, manners and etiquette and making phone calls.

3. Conversation Groups

- More structured than the Talk Time groups
- Facilitated through use of a workbook with exercises
- Students at all levels of English
- Usually facilitated by volunteers

4. Vocational ESL

- Combined vocational and ESL instruction
- Prepares the ESL population for jobs. Teaches skills such as resume building, job search skills, preparing for an interview, and communicating in the workplace
- Taught by paid teachers and volunteers

5. Citizenship Classes

⁸ ESL Methods and Approaches. Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. 2012.

- Practice English while learning about civil rights, civic participation and responsibility, and citizenship
- Builds civic and community involvement
- Review and study for the U.S. citizenship test
- Taught by either volunteers or teachers

ESL classes are taught in a variety of locations, including schools, places of worship, human service agencies, community colleges, libraries, and community centers. ESL programs incorporate technology in their programming to differing degrees and in different contexts.

Facts about ESL and Literacy

- Adult ESL students come from varying educational backgrounds, ranging from very little formal education to graduate and professional degrees.
- In 2013, the Current Population Survey reported the following educational attainment levels of the foreign-born population, as compared to the native population:
 - 31.2% are not high school graduates, compared to 10.6%;
 - 22.2% are high school graduates, but have no college education compared to 29.3%;
 - 18.9% had some college education (incomplete college education), compared to 31.1%; and
 - 16.2% had a bachelor's degree or more, compared to 18.4%.⁹
- While it varies from person to person and depends on multiple factors, it is generally accepted that it takes from 5-7 years to go from not knowing any English at all to being able to accomplish most communication tasks including academic tasks.¹⁰
- The latest National Household Education Survey found that for adults aged 16 or over whose primary language at home was not English: 41.9% participated in ESL classes in the previous 12 months as part of a college program; 28.9% participated to improve their communication skills; 14.1% for a personal, family, or social reasons; and 15.1% for other main reasons.¹¹
- A number of national and state organizations have identified Level 3 proficiency as a minimum standard for success in today's labor market.¹²

ESL Teacher Qualifications

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau 2013, American Community Survey. Native and Foreign Born Populations.

¹⁰ ESL Resources: Frequently Asked Questions. Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. 2015.

¹¹ Adult Education Facts at a Glance. Office of Vocational and Adult Education. U.S. Department of Education. 2008.

¹² Adult Education Facts at a glance. Office of Vocational and Adult Education. U.S. Department of Education. 2015.

As the demand for ESL classes grows, so does the need for teachers. According to the Center for Adult English Language, more teachers are needed to meet the demand: “New teachers are entering the field, experienced teachers are being asked to take on greater challenges, and adult basic education teachers are now working with English language learners in classes along with native English speakers. Professional development is crucial for these teachers.”¹³

A combination of trained volunteers and paid staff teach ESL classes. Most often, paid instructors teach at community colleges, language schools, and high schools. While the requirements vary and depend on the agency and the program, the general teaching requirements are as follows:

Paid Teachers Requirements:

- Masters in Education/Teaching or ESL and/or
- Teaching certificate with an additional endorsement in ESL

Volunteer Tutors/ Facilitators Requirements¹⁴:

- 4 hours Talk Time training
- 8 hour Basic ESL course in order to teach conversation groups
- 12 hours of Adult Basic Education in order to be a one on one tutor
- *Required volunteer training varies depending on the agency.*

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was authorized in 1998. Over the past 11 years, the public workforce system has long awaited reauthorization that would address the evolving workforce and economic needs as well as the limitations in WIA with respect to training, funding, and service delivery design. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) replaces WIA and is in effect for the next five years (2015-2020).

The purpose of the WIOA is to better align the workforce system with education and economic development in an effort to create collective response to economic and labor market challenges on the national, state, and local levels. WIOA continues the trend in workforce legislation by furthering engaging the private sector to lead local workforce development efforts and focuses on introducing increased flexibility and accountability of board members. WIOA encourages an improved response to labor market needs by connecting board performance to outcomes that require an understanding of the correlation between training investments and economic return.¹⁵

WIOA requires that programs receiving federal funding reach certain target levels based on three indicators:

¹³ Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. 2012.

¹⁴ Eastside Literacy Council.

¹⁵ The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

¹⁶ Center for Adult English Language Acquisition. 2012.

1. Demonstrated improvements in skill levels in reading, writing, and speaking the English language, numeracy, problem solving, English language acquisition, and other literacy skills;
2. Placement in, retention in, or completion of postsecondary education, training, unsubsidized employment, or career advancement; and
3. Receipt of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.¹⁶

Funding as provided by the Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act (WIOA) excludes students who do not have a specific college or career goal. Funding for life skills courses is no longer available under WIOA. As a result, Bellevue College no longer provides life skills courses, which creates a need for local providers to fill the gap for the ESL population that are seeking conversation groups, and/or life skills to navigate around their respective communities while trying to feel welcomed and accepted.

Accountability and Assessment

The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act of 1998 also lists 12 criteria for states to consider when funding adult education and literacy. Among these criteria are establishing performance measures for learner outcomes, determining past effectiveness in meeting or exceeding these performance measures, and maintaining a high-quality information management system for reporting learner outcomes.¹⁷

Each state is required to establish its own set of criteria and performance goals and report these findings to the National Reporting System for Adult Education, created by the U.S. Department of Education. States use varying methods for assessment to meet these reporting requirements. Washington State uses a standardized test.

The City of Bellevue requires the ESL programs it funds to report at least one outcome aligned to the needs determined in the Bellevue Human Service Need Update report with at least one measureable indicator per outcome. In the application review process, proposed outcomes are assessed based on their appropriateness and alignment with program goals, as well as whether the outcome indicators are measureable and realistic.

ESL Evolving to ELL

The English as a second language (ESL) term is becoming less common because English might not be the student's second language. It might be their third or even fourth language. However, ESL is applied in the sense of programs that are traditionally specialized. Teachers who have explicit training instruct students in acquiring English as a second language. Programs like these are often supported by federal funding.¹⁸

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Teacher's network.

With the advent of the No Child Left Behind Act, and the passage of legislation demanding education success of all children, the term English Language Learner (ELL) has evolved. The term applies to ELLs in general education K-12 classrooms. The students are not pulled out or pulled aside for individualized ESL support or lessons as in the traditional model. Rather, their teachers make the curriculum accessible to them by planning for accommodations to their content instruction.¹⁹

Furthermore, ELL encompasses building knowledge and experience in the four domains of language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, ELL honors and respects various cultures and languages by drawing upon student's prior experiences.²⁰ Collaboration with the teacher is critical so that children acquire vocabulary and learn the language structures necessary to understand the instruction in the whole class environment.²¹ As ELL continues to grow, most states are adopting the ELL term to describe the unique needs of students from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds who are learning English in addition to his or her native language.²² The federal government is currently struggling to evaluate how states are using ELL.²³ The U.S. Department of Education reports that each state has its own standards, assessments, and criteria for proficiency for both English proficiency and academic content proficiency, as well as its own identification and exit criteria for English proficiency.²⁴ Thus the federal government cannot force states to a common definition of English Language Learners, but it has created financial incentives for states to do so.

NEED FOR ESL IN BELLEVUE

From the 2015-2016 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update:

Community Profile:

- According to the 2013 American Community Survey, nearly 39% of Bellevue residents (age 5 and over) speak a language other than English at home. This is higher than the countywide average of 26%.
- Approximately half of all non-English speakers speak an Asian language, and the next highest percentages speak an Indo-European language (12%) or Spanish (5%).
- During 2009-2013, about 16% of Bellevue's households had no one over the age of 14 who spoke English "very well". This is an increase from about 6% in 2000. These households are considered linguistically isolated. (*A linguistically isolated household is defined in which no person 14 years old and over speaks only English, and no person 14 years old and over who speaks a language other than English speaks very well.*)²⁵

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ What is ELL, East Lansing High School.

²¹ Ibid.

²² The Pew. Who is an 'English-Language Learner'?

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Kids Count Data Center. Children Living in Linguistically Isolated Households by Family Nativity.

Crossroads and West Lake Hills have the highest percentage of linguistically isolated households.

- Bellevue School District students speak 87 first languages. Almost a third (33.5%) of students speak another language other than English as their first language. Spanish is the most common language after English, followed by Chinese-Mandarin, Korean, Chinese-Cantonese, Russian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Teluga, Hindi, French, Tamil, Farsi (Persian), and Arabic. In 2014, 10.7% of Bellevue's School District students are enrolled in English Language Learner (ELL) classes. The majority of ELL students are in grades K-5.
- In Bellevue, anecdotal information from providers' surveys and key informant interviews indicate that the largest groups of refugees encountered for human services are from Asia. The largest group of immigrants in Bellevue using services tends to be Hispanic/Latino primarily from Mexico, followed by Chinese, Korean and people from East Indian countries.
- In the 2015 consumer survey, *not being able to speak, read or write in the English language* was a major or moderate problem for over 43% of respondents.
- At the Eastgate Public Health Clinic, where many Bellevue residents go for services, 39,019 interpreted visits were provided in 2014. The largest percentage of interpretation visits were in Spanish.

Key Trends:

- The 2015-2016 Bellevue Needs Update identified a gap in ESL and job training programs for non-English speaking residents.
- With growing diversity in Bellevue, there is a need for more culturally sensitive programs and activities for school-aged children and youth and their families who may be coping with adjusting to a new country and culture or to gender-based differences. Involving families is need to ensure school success.
- Local ESL class providers have reported increasing trends. Requests for ESL classes at all levels for adults are increasing, and more opportunities for people to learn English, especially those that offer child care, are needed. One of the solutions that was provided during a Human Service Commission meeting (10/20/15) was for ESL providers to create an ESL coalition to increase communication about making ESL resources visible and easier to access for the ESL community. The solution involved discussions with local ESL providers who presented to the Human Service Commission.

ESL CLASSES AND PROGRAMS IN BELLEVUE

Goodwill

www.seattlegoodwill.org
Da'Yo Hutchinson
14515 NE 20th ST
Bellevue, WA
425-289-0040
*Vocation ESL

Program: Job Training & Education Center

The Bellevue Goodwill provides classes and individual assistance for limited English proficient residents to prepare for job training and education programs around the community. The program specifically provides four levels of ESL classes: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. In addition there are computer courses and a career building lab to assist the residents for work. The classes vary from Monday-Thursday from morning, afternoon and evening.

Bellevue College

www.bellevuecollege.edu/programs/esl
3000 Landerholm Circle SE
Bellevue, WA
425- 564-2171
*ESL General & Vocation classes

Program: ESL

Bellevue College (BC) offer a full range of ESL classes, from beginning to advanced, levels 1-6. These classes carry a \$25 tuition charge for one or more classes. Tuition waivers are available if needed. Classes are offered in days and evenings and are 4 to 10 hours a week. The schedule for class dates and times are always determined by the Bellevue College schedule and class times remain the same. It is a three-quarter continuous enrollment program.

Students must be 18 or older, and all new students must take calling and listening placement test, oral and written supplementary test, the CASAS Statewide and Standardized Tests. Homework and regular attendance are required. Job preparation and computer literacy classes are also offered.

Program: Preparing for Work

This BC program provides combined vocation and ESL instruction to help students prepare for work. The program offers intermediate and advanced classes as well as a Business Communication for ESL class. Classes are scheduled in the evenings and on Saturdays, either twice a week for one hour and 50 minutes, or once a week (Saturday morning) for three hours. In addition, there is one hour online work per week.

Preparing for work is a course that is free to the ESL community living in Bellevue.

Program: Intensive English Program (ESL)

This BC program provides an intensive English program called the University Preparation (UP) program. The UP helps students work on their English proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. The overall goal is prepare students to enter U.S. colleges and universities.

The classes consist: 5 levels of ESL, in each level, a student will take 3-4 classes, each level takes about 1 quarter to complete, classes are 11 weeks and in the summer, classes are 7 weeks long. Applicants must be at least 16-years-old and if younger they must complete the underage contact information and health care form to enroll.

It is a tuition based program.

Program: English Language Institute

This program offers its students a chance to learn and grow their understanding of English, as well as the dynamic lifestyle and culture of Pacific Northwest. Teachers challenge and encourage their students to succeed in a well-rounded academic program. Courses are also provided for professionals or residents seeking to continue their study of language and technology. Students from all over the world and within our community can achieve their educational goals, build lasting friendships, and take advantage of a truly international experience at Bellevue College.

Program: ESL Community Program

This program offers classes in English to non-native speakers in the local community. People from a variety of backgrounds choose to study in our Community Program: au pairs, immigrants, L-2 visa holders, H-4 visa holders, permanent residents, students on F-1 visas and so on. Each class has a short description but is unique from quarter to quarter. The classes are designed to provide instruction in a particular skill (grammar, conversation, vocabulary, etc.) but students and teachers work together to shape the class to meet the needs, interests, and levels of the majority. These classes are cost effective and meet only a few times a week for a few hours a day. The majority of the classes are one quarter in duration (i.e. about 10 weeks.)

Bellevue Regional Library (King County Library System)

www.kcls.org/bellevue

1111 110th Ave. NE

Bellevue, WA

425-450-1765 ext. 4 or 425-369-3454

*ESL General, Talk time, Conversation & Citizenship classes

The Bellevue Regional Library offers ESL, Talk Time, and Citizenship classes. The ESL class is taught by Bellevue College, and a placement test is required. Currently, the library offers ESL class section, multiple Talk Time sections, and Citizenship classes. Classes are offered days, evenings, and Saturdays.

Bellevue School District

www.bsd405.org
Bellevue, WA
425-456-4000
*ESL General classes

Elementary Schools

All Bellevue School District (BSD) Elementary schools house ESL programs, with the exception of the Spanish Immersion Program at Puesta del Sol. There are four beginning centers for newcomers at Enatai, Newport Heights, Sherwood Forest, and Stevenson elementary schools. These centers serve elementary beginners for 10 hours per week. The remainder of these students' days are spent in their home school classrooms. Intermediate and advanced level English language learners are served in their home schools via a Facilitator Model, which is an in class model.

Middle and High Schools

Five middle schools (Chinook, Highland, Tillicum, Odle and Tyee) and five high schools (Bellevue, Interlake, Sammamish, International and Newport) have ESL programs. BSD's secondary ESL program focuses on sheltered content instruction, which is teaching academic content as the vehicle for teaching language. Students at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of English proficiency spend portions of their days in sheltered content classrooms and the remainder in regular classrooms. The BSD provides facilitators to support secondary school focusing specifically on supporting access for English language learners in their mainstream classrooms.

Lastly, the ESL programs are supported by highly-qualified ESL teachers. Upon registration, students who first spoke a language other than English are given the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA) to determine their initial language proficiency level. The District provides ESL students with varying levels of support based on their language proficiency level and grade level.

Hopelink

www.hope-link.org
Classes are held at various locations
Hopelink address: 14812 Main St.
Bellevue, WA
425-643-1912
*ESL General & Vocation classes

Program: Adult Education Program (formerly Eastside Literacy)

This program has two components: 1) basic literacy tutoring in reading, writing, math, and GED preparation; and 2) ESL classes. The program offers ESL instruction at multiple levels of proficiencies to native and non-native English speakers in structured classes as well as Talk Time conversational practice groups. Also, Hopelink provides English for Work, where students develop basic language, academic, technology, and employability skills, while exploring career-preparation topics.

ESL classes typically meet once weekly for two hours, and some classes meet twice weekly. Trained volunteers meet with groups of up to 12 in libraries, churches, senior centers, elementary schools, and Hopelink Learning Centers.

Jewish Family Service

www.jfsseattle.org

15821 NE 8th Street, Suite 210

Bellevue, WA

425-643-2221

*ESL General & Vocation classes

Program: ESL

This program provides ESL classes to the public. Participants are involved in learning experiences that develop their English literacy skills, parenting skills, involvement in their children's schools, and ability to assist their children in reading and writing English. Also the program provides tutoring in Bellevue for new immigrants in various locations (Kent, Bellevue, and Seattle) or teach classes to Russians in Seattle.

For many refugees, increasing English language skills is the most significant and challenging part of resettlement. It leads to better jobs and greater independence. ESL Tutors work in the client's home or community, concentrating on conversational and survival English. Tutors can use JFS materials or create their own lessons to model correct English usage and provide supplemental help for the client's ESL class work.

Program: Refugee and Immigrant Services

This program provides a range of employment and social services targeted to serve limited English speaking refugees and immigrants. Services include job readiness training, job placement and retention services, ESL classes, bilingual counseling and case management, and other related social services. The program targets Redmond, Bellevue and Kirkland residents.

Both programs offer beginning and intermediate ESL classes, Monday through Thursday at the JFS Bellevue location. Classes are taught by certified ESL instructors.

Jubilee Reach Center

www.jubileereach.org

14200 SE 13th Place

Bellevue, WA

425-747-0506

*ESL General Classes

The Jubilee Reach Center offers four levels of ESL classes: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, and Talk Time. In addition, Mommy and Me Talk Time is on Tuesday's mornings and an ESL Bible study is offered on Thursday's mornings. ESL classes are offered twice a week, days and

evenings, and classes are 1.5 hours in length. Child care is available for pre-school age children through Jubilee's Story Time Program.

English Alliance Learners Alliance (ELLA)

ELLAllianceInfo@gmail.com

Bellevue, WA

425-312-3552

*ESL Talk Time Groups & Conversation Groups

The ELLA program in Bellevue provides a variety of ESL services. Those ESL services consist of: conversation group, evening coffee and conversation group, English classes, parents with children, story time with parents and children and special events. Most services are Monday-Thursday from morning to evening.

Their mission is to connect non-native speakers with opportunities for improving their English skills and their knowledge of American culture through educational, cultural, social, and community events. People of all origins and skill levels are welcome.

North Bellevue Community Center

www.bellevuewa.gov

4063 148th Ave. NE

Bellevue, WA

425-452-7681

*ESL General Classes

In partnership with the Chinese Information and Assistance Services, the North Bellevue Community Center offers ESL for Chinese seniors. This class is for beginner and intermediate levels. It is offered once a week, for 1.5 hours, during the day.

The North Bellevue Community Center also offers ESL for Spanish speakers, twice a week for a one hour session. Also there is ESL Reading group every Wednesday from 8:30am-9:30am.

Westminster Language Academy

www.languageforlife.org

13646 NE 24th St.

Bellevue, WA

425-460-4041

*ESL General Classes & Conversation Groups

The Westminster Language Academy offers a range of ESL classes from beginner to advanced, as well as private tutoring and special ESL topics. Classes meet one or two days a week for 2-hour sessions, in the morning or in the afternoon. Classes are offered in four 10-week quarters throughout the year, and focus on communication: speaking, listening, pronunciation and

essential grammar. Class size ranges from 4 to 8 students. Classes are taught by certified ESL instructors; a placement test determines student level.

Also, Westminster provides English for conversation classes and space at no cost; however, they fill up quickly. They are held on Mondays from 9:30am-11:30am.

Special topics include:

- English Pronunciation
- ESL through American Literature
- ESL through Shakespeare

One America

ei.weareoneamerica.org

206-723-2203

*ESL General Classes

In the development stages to collaborate with Bellevue and local providers

English Innovations is a blended social learning model that integrates English language learning and combines a collaborative, supportive classroom environment with online tools that enable self-paced, independent learning. English Innovations incorporates two key components: motivation and English language immersion. An innovative, tailored curriculum, paired with digital tools and peer support provides English language education that is accessible anytime, anywhere.

English Innovations Approach:

- Tailored curriculum framework integrates digital literacy skills and language development
- Blended model offers in-class and self-paced learning through online tools and game-based learning
- A collaborative classroom environment facilitates cognitive, social, and emotional engagement
- Tutor-facilitated activities, volunteer involvement, and peer support empowers learners
- A model grounded in communities, engaging immigrants, and immigrant-serving organizations in advocacy for effective English learning and immigrant integration

***This listing is current as of November 2015. For current class offerings, dates and times, please contact the program directly.**

ESL PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE CITY OF BELLEVUE

The City of Bellevue Human Services awards human service grants on a bi-annual basis. The City funded the following programs in 2015 using CDBG and General Fund monies:

Bellevue College

Program: Preparing for Work

2015 Funding Awarded: \$57,869

Hopelink

Program: Adult Education Program (formerly Eastside Literacy)

2015 Funding Awarded: \$43,818

Jewish Family Service

Program: Refugee and Immigrant Services

2015 Funding Awarded: \$153,180

Jubilee

Program: REACH ESL

2015 Funding Awarded: \$5,170

BELLEVUE ESL COLLABORATIONS

The following collaborations were either reported in applications for 2015-16 City of Bellevue funding or through communication with program staff:

- Bellevue College (BC), Hopelink, Lake Washington and Renton Technical Colleges, and Cascadia Community College make up the I-405 Consortium of the five major adult literacy providers in North and East King County. The Consortium collaborates in referral, recruitment, instruction, and development activities to streamline unduplicated services, increase the range of literacy and support services, and improve student access.
 - Consortium members share student assessment scores to ensure that students do not have to be reassessed if they decide to attend another institution in the group, after completing the test.
 - Standardized intake assessment scores are accepted across the consortium to remove a barrier to access for ESL students on the Eastside.
- Hopelink and BC participate in the State Council for Basic Skills, which sets standards for teaching content and assessment and works to assure that students can move seamlessly from one institution to another for learning basic skills.
- Hopelink shares test scores with Jewish Family Service (in addition to sharing with the Consortium).
- BC coordinates with the King County Library System to provide intermediate-level ESL classes at the Bellevue Regional Library.
- Hopelink focuses on beginning and intermediate level English learners, and refers more advanced students to Community Colleges and Bellevue College.
- The Jubilee Reach Center provides lower level ESL classes, and refers students to BC for higher level classes and vocational ESL.