



English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement Stipend

January 13th, 2023

West Fargo Public Schools is pleased to announce a new opportunity for licensed staff. The district was granted extra Title III funds through an Immigrant Grant through the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. The district would like to use this stipend to invest in its staff. WFPS is offering any licensed staff member who would like to earn their ESL endorsement through ND ESPB a one-time \$500.00 stipend. WFPS was awarded enough funds to offer 50 one-time stipends.

Candidates would have to take the Praxis for English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and pass it by August 1st, 2023, due to the expiration date of the Immigration Grant funds. The total cost of this test is \$130.00. The candidates would also need to contact ESPB to get their ESL Endorsement added to their license for a total cost of \$80.00. The \$500.00 stipend would help cover the cost of both the Praxis and the licensure along with some compensation for time spent earning the endorsement.

The goal of offering this stipend is to help licensed WFPS staff feel more prepared to meet the needs of English Learners across different contexts. To pass the ESOL Praxis, candidates will have to study the foundations of linguistics, foundations of language learning, planning and implementing instruction for English Learners, assessment and evaluation of English Learners, culture, as well as professionalism and advocacy in the field of teaching English to speakers of other languages. Candidates can prepare for the ESOL Praxis any way they choose and attempt it multiple times if necessary. It just needs to be passed by August 1st, 2023. Several area universities offer courses on these topics for credit and there are numerous paid and free study resources available online and in print. The Praxis can be taken locally in the Fargo area (or anywhere the candidate chooses) and is offered multiple times a week.

To apply to be a stipend candidate, please complete this [form](#) by **February 20th, 2023**. Spaces are limited and will be prioritized on a first come, first-serve basis. You will be contacted by **February 28th, 2023**, to confirm your spot. A waiting list will be created if there is enough interest.

To learn more about the taking the ESOL Praxis Test and study materials, look [here](#).

To learn more about getting your endorsement through ESPB, look [here](#).

To learn more about credit opportunities from ND universities to help you prepare, look [here](#).

At this time, this stipend is not being offered retroactively for staff that already have their ESL Endorsement.