



English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsement Stipend

September 5th, 2023

West Fargo Public Schools is pleased to announce another opportunity to earn the one-time \$500.00 ESL Endorsement Stipend. The hope is that for the 2023-2024 school year, any licensed staff member who would like to earn their ESL endorsement through ND ESPB have two opportunities to apply for and complete the requirements for the stipend.

Cohort Opportunities:

Fall/Winter Cohort : To apply to be a stipend candidate, please complete this form: [ESL Endorsement Stipend Fall/Winter Cohort Application](#) by **November 1st, 2023**. Spaces are limited and will be prioritized on a first come, first-serve basis. You will be contacted by within a week of your application to confirm your spot. A waiting list will be created if there is enough interest. Requirements for the stipend will be due on **February 28th, 2024**. See requirements below.

Spring/Summer Cohort: This application will open up in January of 2024. Applications will be due by May 1st, 2024. Spaces will be limited and prioritized on a first come, first serve basis. Look for the form through Key Communications or by visiting the [English Learners](#) page on WFPS around this time. Requirements for the stipend in this cohort will be due on August 1st, 2024. See requirements below.

Requirements:

Candidates would have the option to earn their ESL Endorsement by

- 1) taking the Praxis for English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and passing by each cohort's due date. 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.
- 2) earning ESL Endorsement by completing university coursework. Please apply for the stipend during the cohort that best matches when you will finish your university coursework. The hope is that stipend will be offered in future years, but it can't be guaranteed. The \$500.00 stipend will help cover the cost of adding the ESL Endorsement to the teaching license and some of the cost of the credits required for the coursework.

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 or earning the ESL Endorsement through University coursework, 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 cohort due date. 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 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.