

E.S.O.L.

Some of you may be wondering what in the world the initials ESOL mean?" The purpose of the ESOL program in the Fairfax County Public Schools is to teach English to our students who come from families where other languages are spoken. ESOL stands for "English for Speakers of Other Languages." We are lucky to live as neighbors to one of the world's most important cities, Washington, D.C. The Washington and Northern Virginia area is a magnet for people coming from all over the world. Our own neighborhood in Springfield is an example of the multicultural mix of people characteristic of our nation's capital. Have you ever noticed the flags in our Rolling Valley cafeteria? They represent the nations around the world where many of our RVES students' families have their origins.

At the start of this year, we have nearly 70 ESOL students at varying levels of English, representing more than 12 language backgrounds including Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic, Punjabi, Vietnamese, Hindi, Amharic, Chinese, Tagalog.....

Our RVES ESOL students are eager to learn English. They have a large task in front of them. Not only do they have to learn the content material (Social Studies, Science, Math, etc.) that all of our RVES students are expected to learn, but they also have to learn English at the same time so that they can understand the new concepts they are studying! It is amazing to see what our ESOL students can do. We have seen first graders come to school in September with not a word of English. By January, they are chatting away with other students - you would never suspect that English was a new language for them!

If you would like more information about our ESOL program at RVES or about the ESOL program in FCPS, please call one of our ESOL teachers at 703-923-2700.