

Written reports for students learning English as a second language (ESL)

NSW Public Schools - Leading the way

Information for parents and carers of NSW government school students

All parents/carers will receive two written reports from their child's school each year. These reports will help you understand how your child is progressing and how your school is supporting your child's learning. The report will show your child's progress in all subjects.

If your child is in an ESL program, the report will show your child's progress in learning English using the ESL reporting scale (see below), or using a five point achievement scale or both. The report may also include a comment from the ESL teacher.

For all other subjects, the report will show your child's progress in each subject using the five point achievement scale.

Reports for newly arrived ESL students

If your child is in an ESL program and has been in an Australian school for four terms or less, your child's written report will include information about their progress in learning English using the ESL reporting scale and a comment from the ESL teacher. In addition, the report will include a teacher's comment about their progress in the other subjects they are learning.

Reports for newly arrived ESL students in Intensive English Centres or the Intensive English High School

If your child is enrolled in an Intensive English Centre or the Intensive English High School, your child will receive a written report about their progress in learning English using the ESL reporting scale. In addition the report will show progress in all subjects studied in preparation for high school.

The ESL Reporting Scale

The ESL reporting scale covers the full range of English language skills to be learnt at school. ESL 1 on the reporting scale means your child is beginning to learn English. ESL 6 on the reporting scale means your child has developed the high level of English needed for learning the full range of school subjects.

It is important to note that higher levels of English language skills are needed as students progress through the years of schooling. Children in the early years of primary school (Kindergarten – Year 2) would not be expected to achieve higher than ESL 3.

ESL Reporting Scale	
ESL 6	The student can communicate in formal and informal situations, with developing accuracy and complexity. With assistance, the student can analyse complex texts and can improve their writing through planning and revision.
ESL 5	The student can communicate ideas about a range of topics, with varying fluency and accuracy. With assistance, the student can analyse unfamiliar texts and write and edit using appropriate language and structure.
ESL 4	The student can communicate ideas about familiar topics using suitable language. With assistance, the student can understand the main ideas and details in texts and plan and write about a variety of familiar topics.
ESL 3	The student can take part in simple conversations in social and learning situations. With assistance, the student can read and learn from simple texts and can write stories and factual texts.
ESL 2	The student can communicate simple messages in familiar situations. With assistance, the student can read and write simple texts about personal experiences, events and ideas.
ESL 1	The student is beginning to learn English. Some students can communicate using single words. Other students can communicate using simple words and phrases and can read and write simple sentences.

