



english for **NEW
BOSTONIANS**

How to Use the ESOL for Parents and Caregivers Curriculum: Companion Guide for Parents of Students in Grades 7-12

**Developed by Susan Klaw
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Overview

This Companion Guide is designed as a supplement to the primary [ESOL for Parents and Caregivers Curriculum](#), first developed in 2014 by Susan Klaw for English for New Bostonians and then revised every three years. Six units from the primary curriculum have been revised in 2019 so that the contextualized materials relate more to parents of middle and high school students, rather than parents of pre-school and elementary school students as is the case with much of the primary curriculum. The objectives remain the same however—to help immigrant parents learn English and to learn how to help their children succeed in school.

The six revised units in the Companion Guide are: BPS Policies on Attendance, Homework and High School Graduation; MCAS; Parent-Teacher Conferences; Report Cards; Social Media, and Going to College. Each unit is an active link. Once opened, the cover page to the unit lists the activities the unit contains. Teachers can browse through the activities online or print them out. Each activity is presented in the same format. It includes a rationale which gives background information to the teacher, objectives, handouts included or referenced for down-loading, clearly delineated steps for carrying out the lesson, and possible follow-up activities. The activities are saved as word documents to make handouts easily modifiable.

The six revised units can be used in any order, depending on teacher and student interest. Within the unit, however, the activities are sequenced. Each unit will take a number of classes to complete.

Both the primary curriculum and this Companion Guide are written mainly for intermediate level students. However, there are activities within each unit that can be used or adapted for beginning level students. In the Topic, Unit and Activity list, those activities more appropriate for beginning level students have been designated with a (b). Within each unit, these activities are clearly labeled. Underneath the activity name it says, “Can be used/adapted for use with beginning level students.”

Time Sensitive Topics

While teachers can use the Companion Guide units in any order they choose, it makes sense to be aware of the school calendar in deciding what to teach when. For example, if a teacher wants to do the Parent-Teacher Conferences unit, or the Report Card unit, it makes sense to

use those units before the first round of parent-teacher conferences, or just before report cards 3

get distributed. Here is a listing of the revised Companion Guide units and when they should be taught for maximum effect.

Topic/Unit	Month	Rationale
BPS Policies Unit	September-October	Information on how parents can support good attendance and homework/study time is important from the beginning of the school year.
Report Card Unit	Early November or Early February	First report card of the year for 7-12 th grade students is distributed mid November. The second is distributed in early February.
Parent-Teacher Conference Unit.	November	Most Boston schools hold the first individual conferences of the year in November or early December and this unit prepares parents to participate fully in the conferences. Have students find out when conferences will be held in their children's schools as a research project.
MCAS Unit	Early February	High School students take MCAS tests beginning in late Februarys and pread out by subject over several months. Retests are taken in the fall and parents receive scores in the fall. Google MCAS testing dates to see the specific schedule.
Going to College Unit	Any Time	Because there are so many steps in the

		college preparation and college application process, this unit will be relevant at any point.
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Revised Social Media Unit	Any time	No specific time frame.
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Use in Parent ESOL Classes Outside of Boston

Four of the six revised Companion Guide units can be used in parent classes outside of Boston. Only the BPS Policies unit and the Report Card unit are specific to the Boston Public Schools. But even in those two units, teachers can adapt the concept for a different district. For example, get a copy of the high school report card used in the district, and build lessons around that report card rather than the BPS one.

Use in General Adult ESOL Classes

Various parts of both the primary ESOL for Parents and Caregivers Curriculum and this Companion Guide can be used in general adult ESOL classes as well as in parent only ESOL classes. Many students in general ESOL classes are in fact parents. Others are grandparents or aunts and uncles, or older sisters and brothers, and often live within extended family groupings. Others will be parents in the future. Schools and schooling are such important institutions in American society that all immigrant adults will be interested in learning something about how schools work and what helps children learn. A better education for their families is a primary reason immigrants come to the USA in the first place.

In the Companion Guide, both the Going to College and the Social Media units will be relevant to and of interest to all adult students. Teachers should survey their classes to determine how many are parents and what age children those parents have in order to determine whether the other revised units would be useful.

Contact ENB

Feedback of any kind is welcomed. Are you using these new Companion Guide units? What is your setting?? Do you have anecdotes to share? Do you have specific suggestions about revisions that should be made? ENB may also be able to provide training on using the curriculum. All feedback and training requests should go to Lee Haller, at Senior Manager of Grants and Evaluation, lhaller@englishfornewbostonians.org.

Relevant Activities from ESOL for Parents and Caregivers Curriculum

<https://www.englishfornewbostonians.org/esol-for-parents>

Note to Teachers: In English for New Bostonians' primary ESOL for Parents and Caregivers curriculum, much of the contextualized material draws on examples directed at parents of elementary school aged children. This is because in the majority of the parent ESOL classes that ENB funds, participants tend to be parents of younger children. However, we wanted to have materials that would be relevant for parent ESOL classes in the high school or middle school setting. Thus in 2019 we created this Companion Guide of six revised units on topics that were of particular importance for parents of teenagers.

Revised Units in Companion Guide

Topic	Revised Units
Navigating BPS	Policies: Attendance, Homework and High School Graduation
	MCAS
School Involvement	Parent Teacher Conferences
	Report Card
Supporting Children's Learning	Social Media
	Going to College

It should be noted that there are many activities in the primary curriculum, available to download at the link above, which are not age specific and teachers of ESOL for Parents and Caregivers in middle and high school settings can use them in addition to the revised units in the Companion Guide listed above. The following is a list of those additional activities which could be used without teacher modification.

If you are teaching within a Boston Public School

Topic Name	Unit # and Name	Relevant Activities
Navigating BPS	Unit 1: Overview to Schools	#1, #3, #5, #6, #7, #8, #10
	Unit 5: Looking Beyond to Other Choices	#1, #5
School Involvement	Unit 1: Parent Involvement: Expectations and Opportunities	#1, #2, #4, #7
	Unit 4: Advocacy and Special Education	#4, #5, #6

Supporting Children's Learning	Unit 1: Your Are Your Child's First Teacher	#5
	Unit 3: Reading with Children	#1, #5, #8 (deep reading approach section)
	Unit 4: Using the Library	#1

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	Unit 7: Enrichment Programs	#1,#2, #3
	Unit 9: Goal Setting	#1, #2, #3

If you are teaching in a school district outside of Boston

Topic Name	Unit # and Name	Relevant Activities
Navigating BPS	Unit 1: Overview to Schools	#3, #5, #7,
School Involvement	Unit 1: Parent Involvement: Expectations and Opportunities	#1, #2, #4,
	Unit 4: Advocacy and Special Education	#4, #5, #6
Supporting Children's Learning	Unit 1: Your Are Your Child's First Teacher	#5
	Unit 3: Reading with Children	#1, #5, #8 (deep reading approach section)
	Unit 4: Using the Library	#1
	Unit 7: Enrichment Programs	#1,#2, #3
	Unit 9: Goal Setting	#1, #2, #3