A grayscale image of a globe surrounded by a large stack of books. The globe is positioned at the top center, and the books are piled around it, some standing upright and others lying flat. The books have various spine designs and some have text on them.

NORTHWEST OHIO

LANGUAGE RESOURCE GUIDE

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LANGUAGE RESOURCES IN NORTHWEST OHIO

Northwest Ohio is home to a diverse and evolving workforce. Across our 17 counties, employers, educators, and community organizations increasingly serve individuals and families who speak languages other than English as their primary language. This linguistic diversity strengthens our region, but it can also create challenges when language access is limited or difficult to navigate.

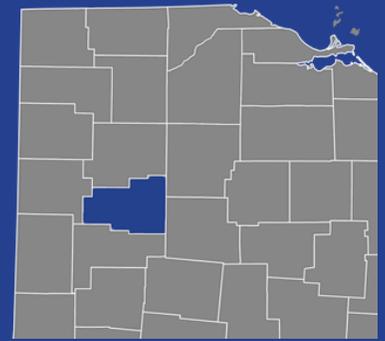
Through ongoing conversations across workforce development, education, manufacturing, and economic development, a consistent theme has emerged: language barriers affect recruitment, training, safety, retention, and access to essential services. Employers have shared challenges communicating critical workplace information. Educators and trainers have expressed a need for stronger language support to ensure learners can fully participate and succeed. Community partners have noted how difficult it can be for individuals to locate reliable language services when they need them.

At the same time, language resources across Northwest Ohio are often fragmented or difficult to find. Many organizations rely on informal networks or trial and error to identify interpretation, translation, or English language learning support. This lack of centralized information can lead to delays, miscommunication, and missed opportunities for both organizations and the people they serve.

This guide was created in response to those shared challenges.

The Northwest Ohio Language Resource Guide provides a centralized, practical reference to language-related services available throughout the region. Organized by county, it highlights organizations and programs that support interpretation, translation, English language learning, and multilingual communication, helping users more easily access language support when and where it is needed.

At its core, this guide reflects a shared understanding: language access is not only a communication issue—it is a workforce issue, a safety issue, and an inclusion issue. By bringing these resources together in one place, we aim to support clearer communication and more inclusive pathways to opportunity across all 17 counties of Northwest Ohio.



Aspire Adult ESOL – Apollo Career Center

A free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program designed for adult learners (age 19+). The program focuses on practical, real-world English skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, to support personal, professional, and academic goals. Classes are structured to accommodate adult learners with varied schedules and emphasize immediate application in workplace and community settings.

Website: <https://www.apollocareercenter.com>

Email: hannah.davis@apollocc.org

Phone: 419-998-2938

Location: Multiple locations in the Lima area (*see website for details*)

Class Time: Class schedules vary by session. Interested individuals must complete registration to be placed on the ESOL waitlist; an instructor will follow up with class details via WhatsApp.

The Literacy Council - Lima Adult Learning Center

Provides free, one-on-one tutoring in reading and math, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and citizenship preparation. Programming is goal-oriented and tailored to individual needs.

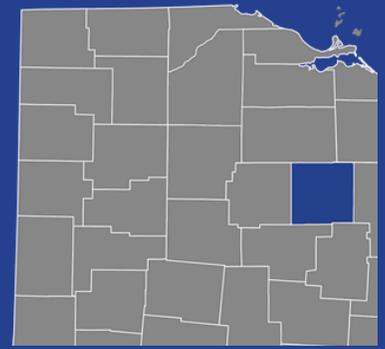
Visit their Access Services page [here](#) to learn more about the intake process, including scheduling an interview and assessments.

Website: <https://www.limaliteracy.net/>

Location: 563 West Spring Street Lima, OH 45801

Phone: 419-223-0252

CRAWFORD COUNTY



Mid-Ohio Adult Education – Aspire ESOL Program

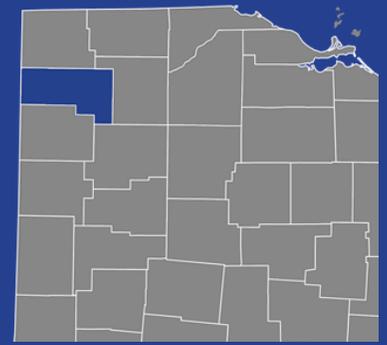
Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adult learners seeking to improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Courses are available at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels and are designed to support learners preparing for college, career advancement, or everyday communication. Day and evening classes are available.

Website: <https://www.midohioadulthoodeducation.org>

Phone: (419) 521-9001

Location: Multiple locations across the region; see website for current sites and class times

DEFIANCE COUNTY



Four County Career Center Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes focused on grammar, speaking, listening, and conversation skills. Classes include civics education and discussions of local culture in a welcoming, community-based setting.

All students must attend orientation before starting. To begin, call (419) 267-2242, **email**, or fill out the **online application**.

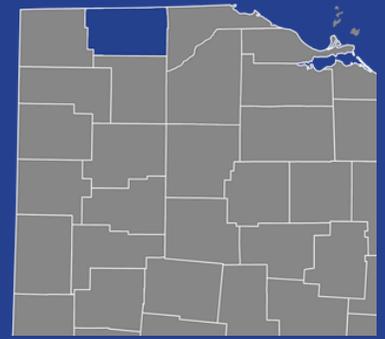
Website: <https://www.fourcounty.net/ESOLAE.aspx>

Email: jlirot@fcanywhere.net

Phone: (419) 267-2242

Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, 413 E. Second Street, Defiance, OH 43512

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00–8:00 p.m.



Four County Career Center Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes focused on grammar, speaking, listening, and conversation skills. Classes include civics education and discussions of local culture in a welcoming, community-based setting.

All students must attend orientation before starting. To begin, call (419) 267-2242, **email**, or fill out the **online application**.

Website: <https://www.fourcounty.net/ESOLAE.aspx>

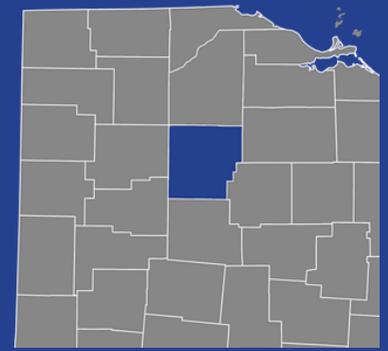
Email: jlirot@fcanywhere.net

Phone: (419) 267-2242

Location: Ohio Means Jobs – Fulton County 604 S. Shoop Avenue, Wauseon, OH 43567

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday, 6–8:00 p.m.

HANCOCK COUNTY



Read for Life

Read for Life is an adult literacy program offering one-on-one tutoring for adults with limited reading ability. Instruction is customized to individual needs and includes support for English as a Second Language (ESOL), citizenship, and other foundational skills. Tutors also serve learners at the City Mission and Hope House.

To learn more or begin the intake process, contact Read for Life directly by phone or email.

Website: www.findlaylibrary.org/content/read-life-0

Email: readforlife@findlaylibrary.org

Phone: (419) 422-3755

Location: 206 Broadway St, Findlay, OH 45840

Vanguard Sentinel Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adults looking to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Instruction focuses on practical English for everyday life and the workplace, along with essential life skills and civics education.

New students complete registration, attend an orientation, and take a placement assessment to determine skill level before beginning classes.

Website: <https://www.vsc.k12.oh.us/adult-ed/aspire/>

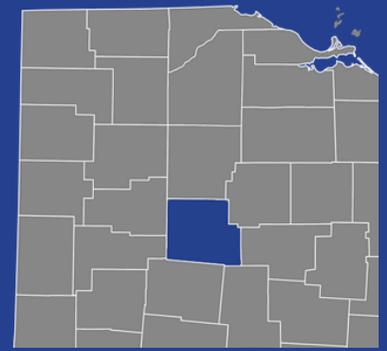
Email: thomasani264@gmail.com

Phone: (419) 788-0177

Location: Owens Community College, 3200 Bridght Road Findlay, OH 45840

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday, 9:30–11:30 a.m., 5:00–7:30 p.m. *(schedule subject to change)*

HARDIN COUNTY



Marion Technical College Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction for adults who want to improve speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in English. Classes are designed to support learners in building practical communication skills for everyday life, work, and continued education.

New students typically complete an intake process prior to beginning classes.

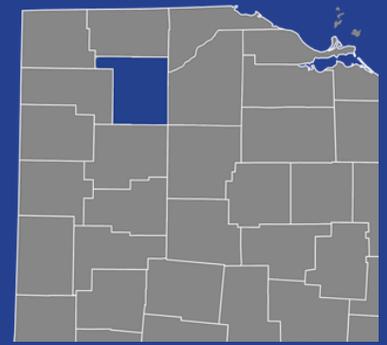
Website: <https://www.mtc.edu/aspire/>

Email: miltza@mtc.edu

Phone: 740-386-4123

Location: Marion Tech Downtown, 107 N Main St #200, Marion, OH 43302, 2nd floor, rm 218

Class time: Monday & Wednesday, 4 - 6 p.m.



Four County Career Center Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes focused on grammar, speaking, listening, and conversation skills. Classes include civics education and discussions of local culture in a welcoming, community-based setting.

All students must attend orientation before starting. To begin, call (419) 267-2242, [email](#), or fill out the [online application](#).

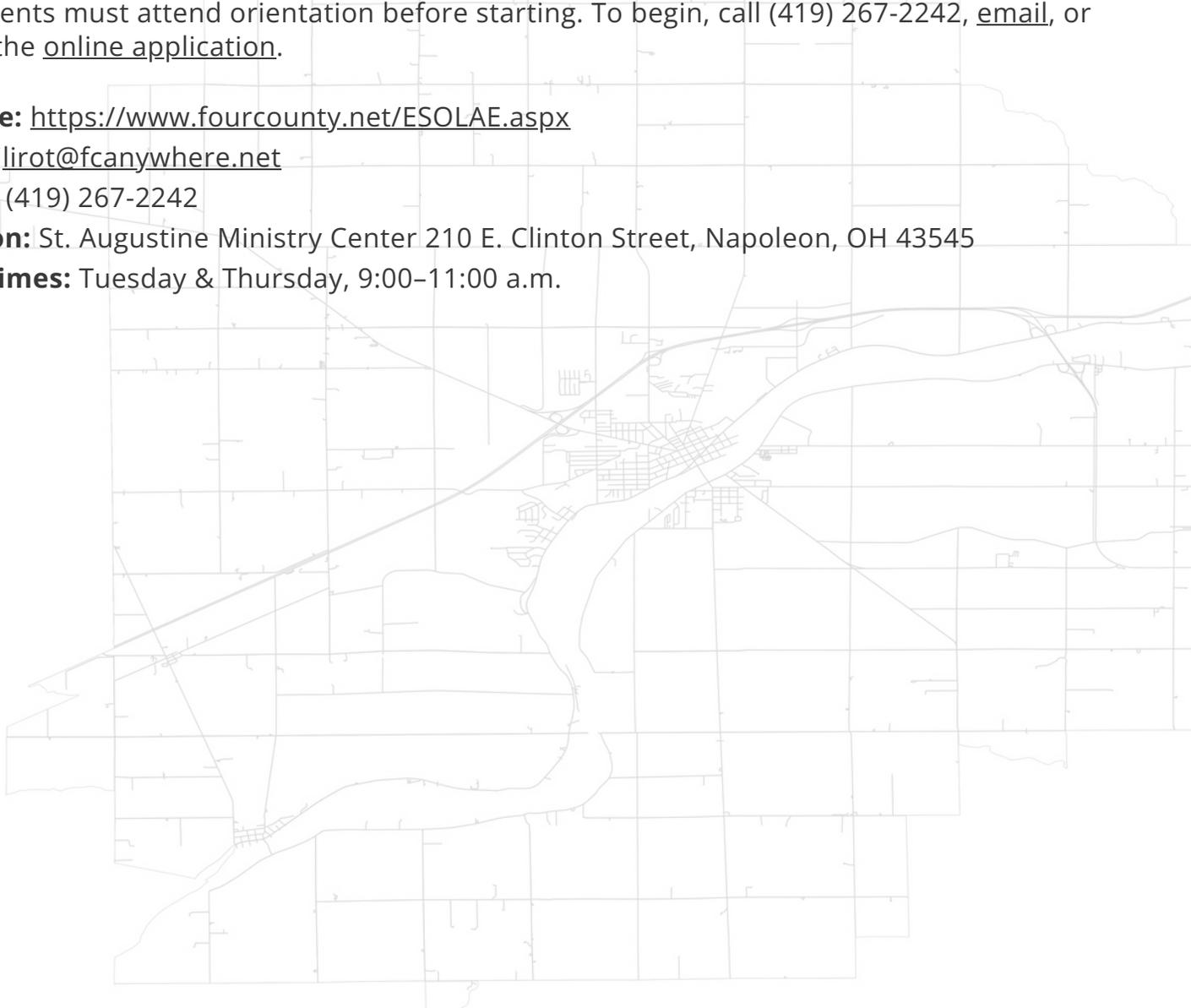
Website: <https://www.fourcounty.net/ESOLAE.aspx>

Email: jlirrot@fcanywhere.net

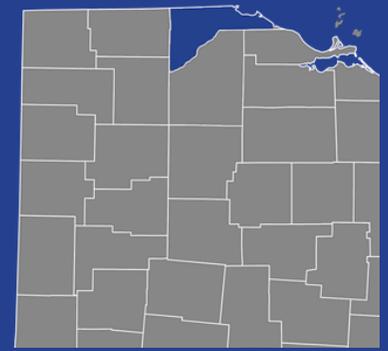
Phone: (419) 267-2242

Location: St. Augustine Ministry Center 210 E. Clinton Street, Napoleon, OH 43545

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00–11:00 a.m.



LUCAS COUNTY



American Language Institute (ALI) – The University of Toledo

Provides intensive English language instruction for international students, scholars, and community members seeking to strengthen English proficiency and build cultural competence. The program offers a structured, academically aligned curriculum with multiple start dates throughout the year and serves as a direct pathway to undergraduate and graduate programs at The University of Toledo.

Website: <https://www.utoledo.edu/hhs/ali/>

Email: ali@utoledo.edu

Phone: (419) 530-4702

Location: American Language Institute, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606

Class Times: Structured sessions with rolling start dates throughout the year. Class schedules vary by term and placement level; advance registration and orientation are required.

English Corner – Office of International Student Services, The University of Toledo

A free, informal weekly conversational English program designed for international students and community members who want to practice everyday English in a relaxed, social setting. Sessions focus on conversation, pronunciation, and speaking skills through interactive activities such as games, discussions, videos, and cultural exchanges. Participants may attend as often as they like, and both in-person and online options are available.

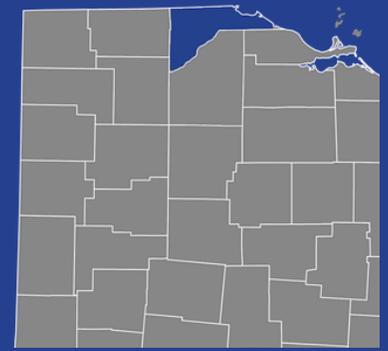
Website: <https://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/international/english-corner.html>

Email: wdbbdw@aol.com

Phone: (419) 705-5056

Location: Multiple locations on campus and online

Class Time: Varies by semester and format. Participants must register to receive current days and times.



Penta Career Center Aspire ESOL Program at Sylvania City Schools

Offers free instruction to help adults build essential English language skills for personal, educational, and workforce success. The program focuses on conversation, grammar, reading, and writing, while also supporting citizenship preparation and employment readiness. Many participants transition into GED programming or pursue further education or career opportunities based on their proficiency level.

Website: <https://www.pentacareercenter.org/ESOL.aspx>

Phone: (419) 824-8539

Location: Varies by class; contact Penta Career Center for current locations

Class Times: Varies by session; orientation required prior to enrollment

Read for Literacy – English Language Learners (ELL) Program

Provides free, one-on-one English language tutoring for adults who speak a language other than English. Learners work individually with trained volunteer tutors to improve speaking, reading, and writing skills, with lessons tailored to each student's personal goals and needs. The program is designed to support adults in navigating daily life, employment, and community engagement more confidently.

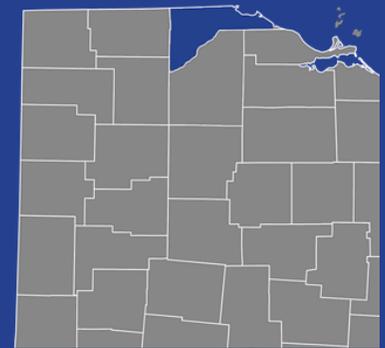
Website: <https://www.readforliteracy.org/literacy-programs>

Email: diana.bush@toledolibrary.org

Phone: (419) 242-7323

Location: 325 N. Michigan Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Class Times: Flexible; scheduled based on tutor and student availability



US Together – English as a Second Language (ESL) Program (Toledo)

Offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and tutoring to support refugees and immigrants as they work toward economic self-sufficiency. The Toledo program provides structured instruction at multiple proficiency levels, focusing on practical English skills needed for employment, daily life, and community integration.

Website: <https://www.ustogether.us/>

Phone: (419) 469-2529

Location: 3450 W. Central Ave., Suite 118 Toledo, OH 43606

Class Time(s):

Monday – Thursday

- Upper Level Beginner: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Intermediate Level: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Lower Beginner: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Water for Ishmael

Partners with the local community to support immigrants and refugees in the Toledo area through English language instruction, workforce development, and integration services. Programs focus on building English proficiency, practical life skills, and pathways to employment and community connection. Offerings include daytime and evening English classes, women-only English programs with childcare, conversation practice, and workforce-focused English training.

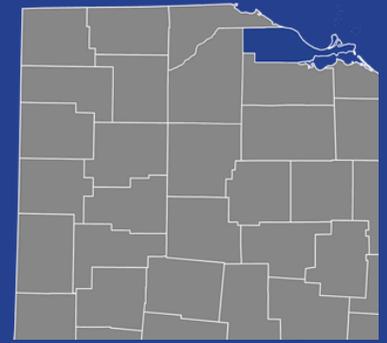
Website: <https://waterforishmael.org>

Email: info@waterforishmael.org

Phone: (419) 720-8089

Location: 20 Arco Drive Toledo, OH 43607

Class Time: Varies by program. Registration and placement are required.



Vanguard Sentinel Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adults looking to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Instruction focuses on practical English for everyday life and the workplace, along with essential life skills and civics education.

New students complete registration, attend an orientation, and take a placement assessment to determine skill level before beginning classes.

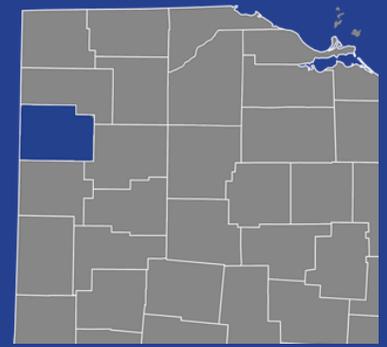
Website: <https://www.vsc.k12.oh.us/adult-ed/aspire/>

Email: thomasani264@gmail.com

Phone: (419) 788-0177

Location: Multiple locations across the region; see website for current sites and class times

PAULDING COUNTY



Aspire Adult ESOL - Apollo Career Center

A free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program designed for adult learners (age 19+). The program focuses on practical, real-world English skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, to support personal, professional, and academic goals. Classes are structured to accommodate adult learners with varied schedules and emphasize immediate application in workplace and community settings.

Website: <https://www.apollocareercenter.com>

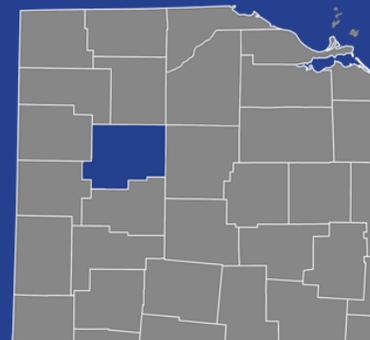
Email: hannah.davis@apolloc.org

Phone: 419-998-2938

Location: Paulding County Job Center 250 Dooley Dr. #B Paulding, OH 45879

Class Time: Class schedules vary by session. Interested individuals must complete registration to be placed on the ESOL waitlist; an instructor will follow up with class details via WhatsApp.

PUTNAM COUNTY



Aspire Adult ESOL – Apollo Career Center

A free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program designed for adult learners (age 19+). The program focuses on practical, real-world English skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, to support personal, professional, and academic goals. Classes are structured to accommodate adult learners with varied schedules and emphasize immediate application in workplace and community settings.

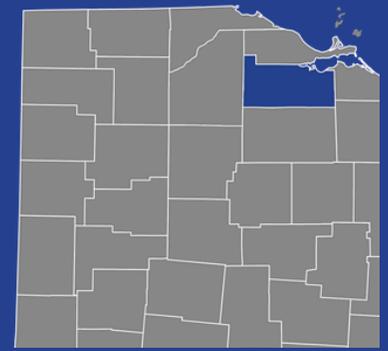
Website: <https://www.apollocareercenter.com>

Email: hannah.davis@apolloc.org

Phone: 419-998-2938

Location: Multiple locations across the region; see website for current sites and class times

SANDUSKY COUNTY



Vanguard Sentinel Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adults looking to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Instruction focuses on practical English for everyday life and the workplace, along with essential life skills and civics education.

New students complete registration, attend an orientation, and take a placement assessment to determine skill level before beginning classes.

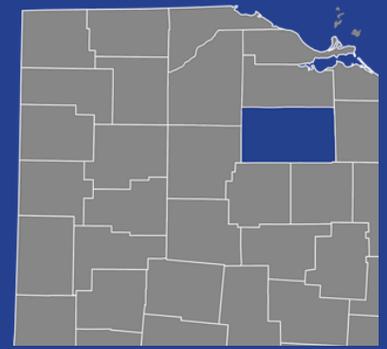
Website: <https://www.vsc.k12.oh.us/adult-ed/aspire/>

Email: thomasani264@gmail.com

Phone: (419) 788-0177

Location: Vanguard Sentinel Career & Technology Center, 1306 Cedar St. Fremont, OH 43420

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday 5 - 7:30 p.m. *(schedule subject to change)*



Vanguard Sentinel Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adults looking to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Instruction focuses on practical English for everyday life and the workplace, along with essential life skills and civics education.

New students complete registration, attend an orientation, and take a placement assessment to determine skill level before beginning classes.

Website: <https://www.vsc.k12.oh.us/adult-ed/aspire/>

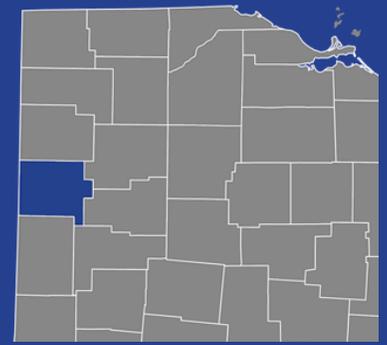
Email: thomasani264@gmail.com

Phone: (419) 788-0177

Location: Fostoria Learning Center, 342 Perry Street Fostoria, OH 44830

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. *(schedule subject to change)*

VAN WERT COUNTY



Aspire Adult ESOL – Apollo Career Center

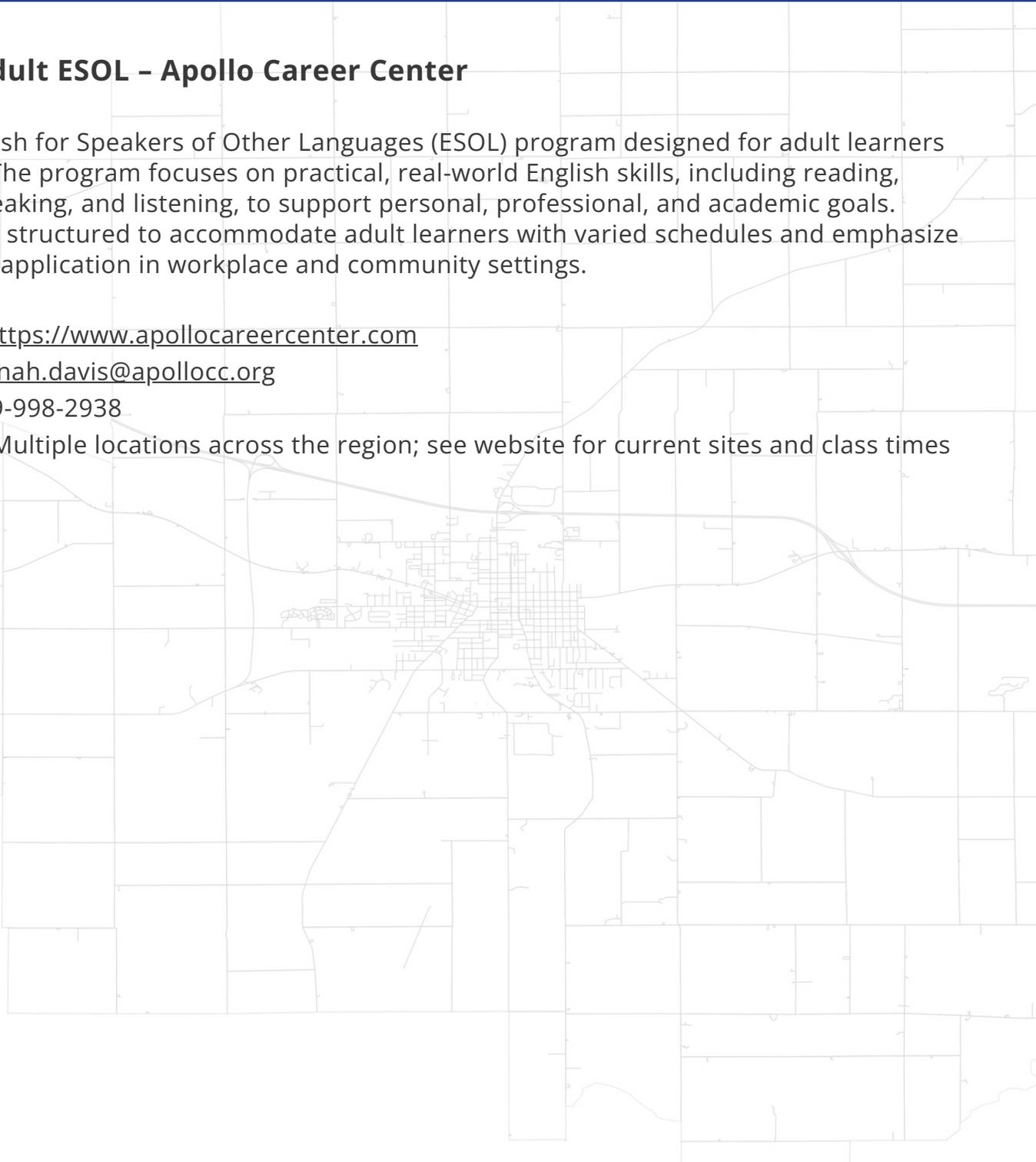
A free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program designed for adult learners (age 19+). The program focuses on practical, real-world English skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening, to support personal, professional, and academic goals. Classes are structured to accommodate adult learners with varied schedules and emphasize immediate application in workplace and community settings.

Website: <https://www.apollocareercenter.com>

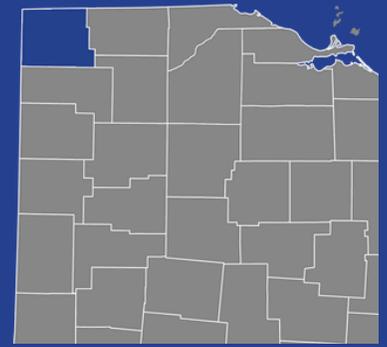
Email: hannah.davis@apollocc.org

Phone: 419-998-2938

Location: Multiple locations across the region; see website for current sites and class times



WILLIAMS COUNTY



Four County Career Center Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes focused on grammar, speaking, listening, and conversation skills. Classes include civics education and discussions of local culture in a welcoming, community-based setting.

All students must attend orientation before starting. To begin, call (419) 267-2242, **email**, or fill out the **online application**.

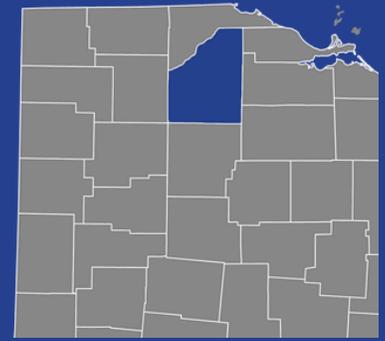
Website: <https://www.fourcounty.net/ESOLAE.aspx>

Email: jlirot@fcanywhere.net

Phone: (419) 267-2242

Location: Multiple locations across the region; see website for current sites and class times

WOOD COUNTY



La Conexión

A nonprofit community organization serving Latinx and immigrant communities across Northwest Ohio. Founded in 2013, the organization focuses on empowerment, leadership development, advocacy, and access to resources that support collective well-being. Programming includes free English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes, leadership and capacity-building initiatives, and workshops on topics such as small business development, labor rights, financial literacy, credit building, and college access for families.

Website: <https://laconexion.online>

Email: laconexion@laconexion.online

Phone: (419) 308-2328

Location: 126 S. Church St. Bowling Green, OH 43402

Class Time: ESL and citizenship classes are offered free of charge twice per week; workshop schedules vary based on community demand.

Owens Aspire College and Career Readiness Center (CCR)

Provides tuition-free adult education, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. The ESOL program supports learners with grammar, speaking, listening, and writing skills to help them succeed in life, education, and employment. In-person and online learning options are available.

To sign up for ESOL classes, call (567) 661-2227 or complete the [online registration form](#). All students must complete a two-day, in-person orientation and present documentation verifying U.S. legal status before enrollment.

Website: www.owens.edu/ccr/enroll

Email: ccr@owens.edu

Phone: (567) 661-2227

Location: Owens Toledo-area Campus, Founders Hall (185 3rd St, Perrysburg, OH 43551)

Walk-in Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM



Mango Languages (via Wood County District Public Library)

An online, self-paced language learning platform offering instruction in 70+ world languages, including American Sign Language (ASL). Courses include native-speaker audio, cultural context, and practical lessons designed for real-world communication. Users can track progress through a personal account, and family profiles allow up to five learners on one account. Access is free with a valid Wood County District Public Library card.

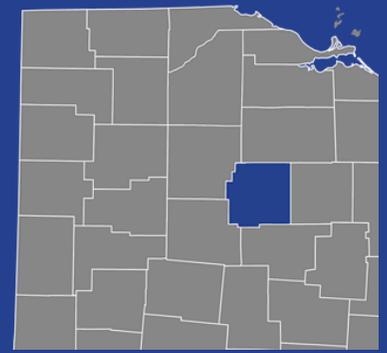
Website: <https://www.wcdpl.org/mango-languages>

Phone: (419) 352-5104

Location: Online (accessible from home or at the library)

Class Time: Self-paced; available anytime

WYANDOT COUNTY



Marion Technical College Aspire Program

Offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction for adults who want to improve speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in English. Classes are designed to support learners in building practical communication skills for everyday life, work, and continued education.

New students typically complete an intake process prior to beginning classes.

Website: <https://www.mtc.edu/aspire/>

Email: miltza@mtc.edu

Phone: 740-386-4123

Location: Marion Tech Downtown, 107 N Main St #200, Marion, OH 43302, 2nd floor, rm 218

Class time: Monday & Wednesday, 4 – 6 p.m.

OTHER LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Available in All Northwest Ohio Counties

La Conexión

A nonprofit community organization serving Latinx and immigrant communities across Northwest Ohio. Founded in 2013, the organization focuses on empowerment, leadership development, advocacy, and access to resources that support collective well-being. Programming includes free English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes, leadership and capacity-building initiatives, and workshops on topics such as small business development, labor rights, financial literacy, credit building, and college access for families.

Website: <https://laconexion.online>

Email: laconexion@laconexion.online

Phone: (419) 308-2328

Online Language Learning Platforms

Self-paced or instructor-led options for individuals seeking language skill development.

British Council – English Online

Structured English courses offered online

Fee based

<https://englishonline.britishcouncil.org/>

Lingoda

Live online classes with native-level instructors

Fee based

<https://www.lingoda.com/>

Rosetta Stone

Self-paced language learning

Fee based

<https://www.rosettastone.com/>

Mango Languages (via Public Libraries)

Online language learning platform offering 70+ languages, including English and American Sign Language (ASL). Available on desktop and mobile.

Free with participating library cards

OTHER LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Technology-Based Translation Tools

Apple AirPods Live Translation (iOS 26)

Service Type: Device-based, real-time translation

Apple's Live Translation feature allows multilingual conversations using compatible AirPods and the Apple Translate app. Spoken audio is translated in near real time and delivered through AirPods, with optional on-screen transcripts.

Requirements:

- AirPods Pro (2nd gen or newer) or AirPods with ANC
- iPhone 15 Pro or newer running iOS 26
- Apple Translate app + Apple Intelligence enabled

Supported Languages (at launch):

English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese (Brazil)
(Additional languages expected in future updates)

Important Note:

Best suited for informal or introductory communication. Not recommended for safety-critical, legal, or technical instruction.