

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

The Board of Education recognizes that within the district there may be students whose primary language is not English. The Board of Education shall provide appropriate services for district students who possess limited or no command of the English language. The purpose of these services will be to help students acquire English language skills that will enable them to function successfully in an all-English classroom and to meet established academic standards. If a sufficient number of the EL (English Learner) students identified are of the same language group to meet statutory requirements, the Board of Education shall establish and implement a bilingual-bicultural education program as required by state law.

The following abbreviations/terms will be used throughout the policy and rule:

EL: English Learner
ESL: English as a Second Language
ELP: English Language Proficient

The District shall assess the English proficiency and academic progress of EL students in accordance with legal requirements and established District procedures. The degree of curricular and instructional modification, type of support services and their duration will be determined individually based on student need.

Decisions regarding the administration of state required tests to EL students shall be made on a case-by-case basis. Any EL student exempted from taking a state-required test will be administered an alternative assessment approved by the Department of Public Instruction.

The results of both state-required tests and alternate assessments shall be used consistent with District policies in making instructional, promotion and graduation decisions. Test results may not be used as the sole criterion in re-classifying an EL student from a bilingual-bicultural education program or in determining grade promotion, eligibility for courses or programs, eligibility for graduation or eligibility for participation in postsecondary education opportunities. Exemption of an EL student from taking a state-required test may also not be used as the sole criterion for making such determinations.

American Indian students may exercise the right to opt out of the state English proficiency examination (ACCESS, Assessing comprehension and communication in English state to state).

Parents/guardians of EL students shall be notified of student testing arrangements and of educational programs and services available to help their children improve their English language skills and academic achievement. These notifications shall be made consistent with legal requirements and in such manner as to ensure that the student's parent/guardian understands them.

Students will be exited from the ESL (English as a Second Language) programs and services when they have met the District guidelines and state criteria for English proficiency. Once students have been exited, they will no longer be tested on their English proficiency or receive state testing accommodations for EL students. Former EL students will be monitored for two years after exiting the program. If during that time, it is determined that the student was exited from the ESL Program prematurely, they will be placed back in the program for additional services.

Legal Ref: 115.95 WSS, 115.96(1) WSS, 115.97 (2) (3) (4) WSS, 118.30(2)(b)2, 118.13, PI 13, WAC, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

Cross Ref: 342.41 Rule Procedures for Testing and Assisting English Learners; 344.5 High School Graduation Policy; 346 Student Assessment; 411 Student Nondiscrimination and Equal Educational Opportunities

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