



Section: *Pupils*

Title: *English Language Learners*

Adopted: *12.18.04*

Revised:

213 *English Language Learners*

Purpose

In accordance with the Board's philosophy to provide a quality educational program for all students enrolled in the District, the Colonial School District shall provide an appropriate planned instructional program for identified students whose dominant language is not English, as part of the core curriculum.

The purpose of the program is to increase the English language proficiency of eligible students and facilitate their achievement of the academic standards adopted by the Board.

The program shall include English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. The program shall meet the three-part test of program compliance:

- 1. sound research-based education theory;*
- 2. sufficient resources and staffed by appropriate prepared personnel;*
- 3. periodic program evaluation.*

Delegation of Responsibility

The Board shall direct administration to include provisions for the ESL programs in its Strategic Plan.

The Board shall direct administration to include provisions for the professional education of ESL teachers, classroom teachers of limited English proficient (LEP) students, and new teachers in its professional development plan.

The Board shall direct administration to develop procedures for identification of students whose dominant language is not English.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement and supervise an ESL Program that meets the legal requirements for ESL Program compliance.

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with appropriate stakeholders, shall develop and disseminate written procedures regarding the ESL program:

- 1. Program goals;*
- 2. Student enrollment procedures (i.e., The Home Language Survey shall be completed for every student in the district and filed in the student's permanent record folder through graduation.);*
- 3. Assessment procedures for program entrance, measuring gains in English proficiency, and program exiting (i.e., For students whose dominant language is not English, assessment of the student's English proficiency level must be completed to determine the need for ESL instruction.);*
- 4. Accommodations for English Language Learners (ELL) in the classroom;*
- 5. Grading policies;*
- 6. List of resources including support agencies and interpreters;*
- 7. Participation in large-scale assessments or other standardized tests not specifically developed for ELL;*
- 8. Parents' rights and complaint resolution process.*

Guidelines for ESL Program

Students who have limited English proficiency will be identified, assessed, and provided appropriate services.

The ESL program shall be designed to provide instruction to meet each student's individual needs based on the assessment of English proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Adequate content area support shall be provided while the student is learning English to assure achievement of academic standards.

The ESL program shall be provided by a PA certified teacher (hired as a teacher) and, if necessary, appropriate support staff (i.e., teacher aides).

Instructional resources shall be comparable to the resources provided other core academic subjects.

The program shall be evaluated for effectiveness based on the attainment of English proficiency. If LEP students are not learning English, the program shall be changed to ensure greater success.

The English language learner shall be required to meet established academic standards and graduation requirements, with accommodations, as adopted by the Board.

English language learners shall have access to and should be encouraged to participate in all academic and extra curricular activities available in the district.

Guidelines shall be developed for parent involvement. The guidelines shall include communication with parents about assessment, academic achievement, and other related education issues in the language understood by the parent whenever possible.

ESL programs and services to students attending private schools shall be provided only if, and only to the extent, required by law.

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