

DRAFT UPDATE

Instruction

English Language Learners

The District offers opportunities for resident English Language Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to attain. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program for English Language Learners that will:

1. Assist all English Language Learners to achieve English proficiency, facilitate effective communication in English, and encourage their full participation in school activities and programs as well as promote participation by the parents/guardians of English Language Learners.
2. Appropriately identify students with limited English-speaking ability.
3. Comply with State law regarding the Transitional Bilingual Educational Program (TBE) or Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI), whichever is applicable.
4. Comply with any applicable State and federal requirements for the receipt of grant money for English Language Learners and programs to serve them.
5. Determine the appropriate instructional program and environment for English Language Learners.
6. Annually assess the English proficiency of English Language Learners and monitor their progress in order to determine their readiness for a mainstream classroom environment.
7. Include English Language Learners, to the extent required by State and federal law, in the District's student assessment program to measure their achievement in reading/language arts and mathematics.
8. Provide information to the parents/guardians of English Language Learners about: (1) the reasons for their child's identification, (2) their child's level of English proficiency, (3) the method of instruction to be used, (4) how the program will meet their child's needs, (5) specific exit requirements of the program, (6) how the program will meet their child's individualized education program, if applicable, and (7) information on parent/guardian rights. Parents/guardians will be regularly apprised of their child's progress and involvement will be encouraged.

Parent Involvement

Parents/guardians of English Language Learners will be: (1) given an opportunity to provide input to the program, and (2) provided notification regarding their child's placement in, and information about, the District's English Language Learners programs.

Comment [AKL1]: The policy is renamed and the policy text is updated to refer to *English Learner* throughout in response to P.A. 99-30 (ISBE clean-up bill) and recent updates to 23 Ill.Admin.Code §228.15.

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NOTE:

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Dept. of Education (ED) and the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) have issued joint guidance to assist school districts and all public schools in meeting their legal obligations to ensure that English learners can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs and services. The guidance is available at: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf. In support of this guidance, the Office of English Language Acquisition released an *English Learner (EL) Tool Kit* to assist school districts in providing EL students with the support necessary to achieve their full academic potential. The *Tool Kit* is available at: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/index.html.

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LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §§6312-6319 and 6801.
34 C.F.R. Part 200.
105 ILCS 5/14C-1 et seq.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 228.

CROSS REF.: 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program)

ADOPTED: ~~March 19, 2013~~