

English Language Learners Program

Program Overview

Step 1: Identification

Anchorage School District (ASD) is responsible for identifying all students who have had the influence of a language other than English in their background.

Step 2: Assessment

ASD is responsible for assessing each identified student's English language proficiency to determine whether the student qualifies for the English Language Learners Program.

Step 3: Placement and Service

ASD is obligated to implement a program based on sound educational approach to develop English language skills and provide English language learners with meaningful access to the educational program.

Step 4: Exiting the Program

ASD is responsible for following the state's criteria that determine when a student has sufficient English language proficiency and academic skills to participate in the general education program.

Step 5: Monitoring

ASD will ensure that students exited from the program are performing successfully in the general educational program. Academic progress will be monitored for two years.

Educational Goals

Students will be able to:

1. use English to communicate in social settings
2. use English to achieve academically in all content areas
3. use English in socially and culturally appropriate ways

Assessment

The *WIDA Measure of Developing English Language (MODEL)* is administered to all new-to-district students who have indicated a home language other than English on the parent language questionnaire for the purpose of identification and appropriate placement for service.

Students' level of English language proficiency is assessed annually with the *English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)*.

Students' level of academic achievement is assessed annually by State Standardized tests at the indicated grade level: *Alaska Measures of Progress (Grades 3-10)*

Instructional Models

Sheltered English Instruction is the educational approach utilized district-wide. It is used to make academic instruction in English understandable to ELL students. The model is used across the curriculum areas.

Newcomers' Center is a separate, relatively self-contained educational intervention designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrants, particularly secondary students (middle and high school).

Instructional Models Continued

Language Immersion Programs

The goal of these bilingual programs is for students to develop language proficiency in two languages by receiving instruction in English and another language in the classroom. Programs are currently available for Russian, German, Japanese, Chinese and Spanish. Please see the ASD website for more information.

Exit Criteria

Limited English Proficient (LEP) students receiving English Language Learners (ELL) Program services must meet the following criteria in order to exit the program: A student must attain an overall score of proficient (5.0) on the annual English Language Proficiency Exam, including a score of Expanding (4.0) on each individual section of the exam (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Once the student scores an overall score of proficient the student goes into monitoring status for two years.

Students with Disabilities

The English Language Learners Program (ELLP) meets the objectives set for limited-English-proficient students with disabilities through adhering to the Anchorage School District policy regarding students with disabilities. This information is found on the ASD website: www.asdk12.org/depts/spec/policy/

Parental Rights

1. To have your child receive a quality education and be taught by a highly qualified teacher.
2. To have your child attain proficiency in English, reading, writing and mathematics at the same academic level as all other students.
3. To know if your child has been identified and recommended for placement in an English language acquisition program, and to accept or refuse such placement. Notification must include the reason for placement, the method of instruction, and what is required for the child to exit the program, and it must be in a language or manner that the parents understand.
4. To have your child tested annually to assess his or her progress in English language acquisition.
5. To have your child taught with programs that are scientifically proven to work.
6. To have the opportunity for your child to reach his or her greatest academic potential.
7. To receive information regarding your child's performance on academic tests.

English Language Learners Program Office Staff

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