



Book	Policy Manual
Section	2000 Program
Title	SERVICES FOR BILINGUAL STUDENTS/ENGLISH LEARNERS
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2260.02 - **SERVICES FOR BILINGUAL STUDENTS/ENGLISH LEARNERS**

The Board shall provide appropriate identification and transition services for District students who are identified as English learners. The purpose of these services is to develop English language skills that will enable the students to function successfully in an all-English classroom and complete the District's required curriculum.

These services shall include the identification of students who are English Learners (ELs), the implementation of curricular and instructional modifications, the assessment of the EL student's academic progress, the identification of EL students who achieve English Language Proficiency (ELP), and continued monitoring of ELP students. The degree of modification, the duration, and the type of services shall be determined individually and shall be based on the needs of each student.

If a sufficient number of the students identified with limited English proficiency are of the same language group to meet statutory requirements, the Board shall establish and implement a bilingual-bicultural education program as required by the law.

The EL Coordinator shall be responsible for taking a count of limited-English proficient students in the District that shall be completed on or before March 1st of each school year. The District will also assess the language proficiency of such students and classify them by language group, grade level, age, and English language proficiency. The annual assessment will measure a student's oral language, reading, and writing skills in English.

The District shall submit the report of EL students to the Department of Public Instruction as required by law.

Assessing English Proficiency

Every family who registers to attend the District for the first time will be asked to identify the primary language spoken in their home by the parents and by the child.

Identification of students requiring additional services as ELs will be identified by the District using the following process:

- A. Every family who registers to attend the District for the first time will be asked to identify the primary language spoken in their home by the parents and by the child by completing a Home Language Survey.
- B. The student's prior academic records in or outside the United States will be reviewed to identify areas of concern where poor performance may be attributable to language barriers.
- C. If deemed appropriate, the student may undergo an academic assessment to confirm identification.

Students not initially identified as in need of EL services who are observed through classroom performance as exhibiting language barriers to educational achievement should be re-evaluated.

Students identified above must be given the formal evaluation screening test. Students that score less than ELP 5 on the test must be identified as EL and entered into the Wisconsin Information System for Educators (WISEdata) system.

The District will provide programs for ELs/Limited-English Proficient (LEP) students so they may become proficient in English while achieving academically.

Parental Notification and Consent

If a student is identified and assessed as EL and determined to be eligible for services, the District will send written notice to the student's parent within thirty (30) days of the start of the school year or within two (2) weeks of assessment (if the student is not identified prior to the beginning of the school year). Every effort will be made to obtain permission from the student's parent(s) to place the student in language instructional programming prior to the start of the school year or as soon as practicable after identification. The notice will include the information required by law.

No student will be placed in the EL Program without having received written permission from the student's parent(s). The notice to the parent(s) shall be in English and in the non-English language of the EL student. Additionally, the student's parent(s) will be given the opportunity to participate and provide input into the student's program and will be regularly informed of the student's progress. Finally, the student's parent(s) shall be given the opportunity to participate in the determination that their student has the language skills necessary to be socially and academically successful, as identified below, and the student may exit the program.

The EL student's English proficiency assessment records shall be maintained by the District in accordance with State and Federal laws and District student records policies and procedures.

Assessing Academic Achievement and English Language Proficiency

An EL student may not be exempted from academic assessments based on their EL status. However, an EL student, who has been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than twelve (12) cumulative months, may be exempted during the first test administration. The District shall administer State-required tests to EL students unless a determination has been made that an individual student's results on the test, with allowable accommodations made for the student as needed, will not be a valid and reliable indicator of the student's academic knowledge and skills.

All EL students' assessment results, as well as a student's alternative assessment results, shall be communicated to the student's parent(s) and to the DPI as required by law.

EL students must annually be administered assessment testing for English proficiency determination. The District will update WISEdata if appropriate.

Exit Procedures

Once a student has been placed in the EL Program, the student will be provided with programs and services and will be evaluated on an annual basis until it is determined that the student has the language skills necessary to be socially and academically successful in age and grade-appropriate settings in all areas of language development without the use of adapted or modified English materials.

EL students with the language skills necessary to compete will:

- A. understand and speak English in relation to the full range of demands of the classroom and the academic language needed to succeed;
- B. read, comprehend, and write English as evidenced by successful classroom performance and average District score on standardized achievement tests; and

C. meet or exceed District guidelines in their academic subjects.

Students may be identified as reaching these English proficiency standards by either:

- A. receiving an ELP 5 or higher on an annual assessment, in which case the student is automatically classified as English Language Proficient in WISEdata; or
- B. receiving an overall composite of 4.5-4.9 and re-evaluate with the Multiple Indicator Protocol ("MIP") to determine whether the student demonstrates full English proficiency. If choosing to use the MIP the District must implement it as described in the Department of Public Instruction's English Language Policy Handbook.

Parents must be notified and consulted prior to the formal reclassification of a student. Parents who disagree with an ELP assessment shall be given the opportunity to meet with the EL coordinator to discuss assessment. If there is still a lack of agreement, then a meeting with the building-level administrator will take place.

Upon exit from the EL Program, the reclassification/exit decisions will be monitored and reviewed, and documentation maintained, for two (2) years. The MIP may be used as one (1) of the multiple monitoring indicators during those two (2) years. The documentation will include, at a minimum, grade level and two (2) or more pieces of evidence.

Re-entry

During the two (2) year monitoring period, if the student is unable to compete with mainstream English speakers in age and grade-appropriate settings in all areas of language development, the student will be allowed to re-enter a bilingual or EL program.

The EL Coordinator will be responsible for assuring that parents are involved in each entry, exit, and re-entry decision, that these guidelines are followed and that ELL reclassification/exit and the re-entry decisions abide by Department of Public Instruction standards.

Counseling Services for Students Who Are Limited English Proficient Students

The District believes that all students should have an opportunity to have the guidance of a counselor in course selection and career planning. A student who has limited English proficiency should be able to communicate their ambitions with a counselor so that there is no discrimination or bias in class placement or career planning. A counselor should not make any predictions of success or failure based on a student's classification as limited English proficient.

If any materials, interpreters, or resource people are used to recruit students to a particular career path or vocational choice, the counselors and teachers must be sure that such materials and/or presentations can be made accessible to a student, as well as a parent, who is limited English proficient.

If a counselor knows that a parent has limited English proficiency, and communication with a parent is necessary based upon concerns about their child, the counselor should attempt to utilize an interpreter to assist in a discussion regarding the matters being discussed.

To contact someone regarding limited English proficiency, please contact:

Miss Lindsey Ariss
River Ridge School District
608-994-2715

Testing

The parent(s) 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. The notifications shall be consistent with legal requirements and presented in such a manner as to ensure that the student's parent(s) understands them.

The District shall assess the English proficiency and academic progress of EL students in accordance with legal requirements. Decisions regarding the administration of State-required tests to EL students shall be made on a case-by-case basis. Testing accommodations may be made based on student needs, provided the validity of the test is maintained. The District shall administer State-required tests to an EL student unless a determination has been made that the results of the test, with allowable accommodations made for the student as needed, will not be a valid and reliable indicator of the student's academic knowledge and skills. Any EL student exempted from taking a State-required test shall be administered an alternative assessment approved by the Department of Public Instruction.

The results of both State-required tests and alternate assessments shall be 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 post-secondary education opportunities.

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