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| E – Special Programs | **EHBE** |
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| Bilingual / ESL - 2025 |

**Bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs**

South San Antonio ISD provides the following programs for English learners and immigrant students:

1. "Dual language immersion (DLI) program" state-approved bilingual program model;
2. "Emergent bilingual student" program for a student whose primary language is other than English and whose English language skills are such that the student has difficulty performing ordinary classwork in English. "Emergent bilingual student" also means a student identified by the language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC) who is in the process of acquiring English and has another language as the student's primary or home language. This term is interchangeable with English learner as used in federal regulations and replaces the term "limited English proficient student."
3. "English as a second language program" is a special language program in accordance with Education Code, Chapter 29, Subchapter B. Another related term for an ESL program is "English as an additional language program."

The district will:

1. Identify emergent bilingual students based on criteria established by the state;
2. Provide bilingual education and ESL programs as integral parts of the general program;
3. Seek appropriately certified teaching personnel to ensure that emergent bilingual students are afforded full opportunity to master the essential knowledge and skills; and
4. Assess academic achievement and linguistic progress to ensure accountability for emergent bilingual students and the schools that serve them.

**Language Proficiency Assessment Committees (LPACs)**

The district shall establish and operate one or more LPACs.

The LPAC may include:

1. An appropriately certified bilingual educator (for students served through a bilingual education program);
2. An appropriately certified ESL educator (for students served through an ESL program);
3. A parent of an emergent bilingual student participating in a bilingual or ESL program; and
4. A campus administrator.

Note: No parent serving on the LPAC shall be an employee of the district.

Within the first four weeks of the first day of school, the LPAC shall determine the number of emergent bilingual students on each campus and shall classify each student according to the language in which the student possesses primary proficiency.  The district will report that information to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) before November 1 each year.

**Emergent Bilingual Classification**

The LPAC may classify a student as emergent bilingual if:

1. The student's ability in English is so limited or the student's disabilities are so severe that assessment procedures cannot be administered;
2. The student's score or relative degree of achievement on the TEA-approved English proficiency test is below the levels established by TEA as indicative of reasonable proficiency;
3. The student's primary language proficiency score as measured by a TEA-approved test is greater than the student's proficiency in English; or
4. The LPAC determines, based on other information, including a teacher evaluation, parental viewpoint, or student interview, that the student's primary language proficiency is greater than the student's proficiency in English or that the student is not reasonably proficient in English.

**Parental Notice and Consent**

Not later than the 10th day after the date of the student's classification as an emergent bilingual student, the LPAC shall give written notice to the student's parent.

The district will notify the parent in English and in the parent's primary language that their child has been identified as an emergent bilingual student and recommended for placement in the required bilingual education or ESL program using the TEA-developed identification and placement letter.

The entry or placement of a student in the bilingual education or ESL program must be approved in writing by the student's parent or through allowable alternatives, in order to have the student included in the bilingual education allotment. The parent's approval shall be considered valid for the student's continued participation in the required bilingual education or ESL program until the student meets the reclassification criteria described in the state guidelines for Testing and Classification of Students, the student graduates from high school, or a change occurs in program placement. A change between bilingual education and ESL program placement requires new parental approval using the TEA-developed change in placement letter.

If a parent denies program placement at any point, the TEA-developed denial letter shall be used to ensure parents are informed of the implications of program denial, including understanding that the child will continue to be identified as an emergent bilingual student and will continue to be assessed annually using the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) until reclassification criteria have been met.

The district shall use the TEA-developed letter to give written notification to the student's parent of the student's reclassification as English proficient and acquire written approval for his or her exit from the bilingual education or ESL program. Students meeting reclassification criteria who have been recommended for exit by the LPAC may only exit the bilingual education or ESL program with parental approval. Parental approval is also required for students participating in a dual language immersion program who have met reclassification criteria and for whom the LPAC has recommended continued program participation as an English proficient student.

Pending completion of the identification process, receipt of LPAC documentation for transferring students, or parental approval of an identified emergent bilingual student's placement into the bilingual education or ESL program recommended by the LPAC, a district shall place the student in the recommended program. Only emergent bilingual students with parental approval for program participation will be included in the bilingual education allotment.

**Program Exit**

A district may place a student in or exit a student from a program without written approval of the student's parent if:

1. The student is 18 years of age or has had the disabilities of minority removed;
2. The parent provides approval through a phone conversation or email that is documented in writing and retained; or
3. An adult who the district recognizes as standing in parental relation to the student provides written approval. This may include a foster parent or employee of a state or local governmental agency with temporary possession or control of the student.

A district will provide written notification to the student's parent of a student's reclassification as English proficient and his or her exit from the bilingual or ESL program and acquire written approval. Students meeting reclassification requirements may continue in the bilingual education or ESL program with parental approval.