

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.:	138
Section:	PROGRAMS
Title:	English Language Development Program
Date Adopted:	12/16/02
Date Last Revised:	6/11/18

138 English Language Development Program

In accordance with the Board's philosophy to provide a quality educational program for all students enrolled in the District, the Lower Merion School District shall provide an appropriate planned instruction program for identified students whose dominant language is not English.

The School District shall provide a program for each student whose dominant language is not English for the purpose of facilitating the student's achievement of English proficiency and the academic standards. The program shall include English Language Development instruction. The program shall meet the three-pronged test of program compliance: (1) sound research-based education theory, (2) sufficient resources and staffed by appropriate prepared personnel, and (3) periodic program evaluation.

The District shall include provisions for the professional education for ESL teachers, classroom teachers of EL students and new teachers in its professional development plan.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Board, shall establish and promulgate procedures for identification of students whose dominant language is not English.

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

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with appropriate stakeholders, shall develop and disseminate written procedures regarding the Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP), including the following:

1. Program goals
2. Student enrollment procedures (i.e. Home Language Survey and Parent Interview)
3. ELD screening, identification and placement procedures
4. Measuring progress in gaining English proficiency, reclassification, and monitoring
5. Accommodations for English Language Learners (ELs) in the classroom
6. Grading policies
7. List of resources, including support agencies and interpreters
8. Participation in large-scale assessments or other standardized tests not specifically developed for ELs

Guidelines for the ESL/Bilingual Program

EL students shall be enrolled upon presentation of a local address and proof of immunization.

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.:	138
Section:	PROGRAMS
Title:	English Language Development Program
Date Adopted:	12/16/02
Date Last Revised:	6/11/18

The ELD 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 ensure achievement of academic standards.

Parents of ELs have the right to refuse certain separate, specialized programs and services that may be part of the LIEP for their children.

All ELD programs will be staffed by certified personnel, where required.

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 ELs are not developing English at the expected rate, the program shall be changed to ensure language growth.

The EL shall be required to meet Board established academic standards and graduation requirements with accommodations.

Students shall have access to and should be encouraged to participate in all academic and extracurricular activities available in the District.

Communication with parents shall include information about assessment, academic achievement and other related education issues in the language understood by the parent whenever possible.

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