

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

Background

The Mt. Lebanon School District is committed to providing quality educational programs for all students, including an effective Language Instruction Educational Program(LIEP) that meets the needs of students who are English Learners (ELs). Mandates concerning programs for these students, as issued under Federal Law (particularly the No Child Left Behind Act) as well as state regulations and directives, confirm the need for this appropriate instruction.

Objective

It is the objective of this policy to ensure that the LIEP demonstrates success in increasing English language proficiency. EL students shall be identified, assessed and provided appropriate instruction in accordance with the LIEP, and shall be provided an equitable opportunity to achieve their maximum potential in educational programs and extracurricular activities, consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

Policy

It is the policy of the Mt. Lebanon School District to provide an LIEP that includes English Language Development Instruction (ELD) to EL students as part of the approved curriculum, in order to develop the English language proficiency of EL students.. Such programs shall comply with parameters set forth in applicable law governing EL instruction. As part of this policy:

1. The LIEP shall be based upon sound research-based education theory, supported by sufficient resources including appropriately trained personnel (whether through persons directly employed or independently contracted by the District). Such program will be periodically evaluated.
2. Any required surveys pursuant to LIEPs shall be completed for every student enrolled in the District and filed in the student's permanent record folder through graduation. In accordance with applicable law for EL students, assessment of the student's English proficiency level must be completed to determine the need for ELD.
3. Communications with parents/guardians of EL students shall include information about assessment, academic achievement, and other related education issues in a language understood by the parent/guardian whenever reasonably practical.
4. EL students shall have access to and should be encouraged to participate in all academic and extracurricular activities available in the District.
5. EL students, to the extent required by law, shall participate in the PSSA and District large scale assessments which are generally administered to all students.

EPS/NSBA

Administration Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Administration:

1. To establish procedures for identification of students whose dominant language is not English, in accordance with applicable law.
2. To implement and supervise an LIEP that meets the legal requirements for program compliance and ensures that all students are provided with the support needed to attain the District's academic standards.
3. To train staff and/or retain appropriate personnel to ensure compliance with Federal and state guidelines on the accessibility and provision of ELD and LIEPs.
4. To develop and disseminate, to the extent required by law, written procedures regarding the LIEP including: program goals; student enrollment procedures; assessment procedures for program entrance, measuring progress and gaining English proficiency, and program exiting; accommodations for English learners in the classroom; recordkeeping procedures (including parental election notices declining child's participation in the LIEP); grading policies; and resource lists including support agencies and interpreters.
5. To establish any other procedures regarding EL as required by Federal or state law and to facilitate student achievement consistent with District standards.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. All interested parents/guardians and students.
2. All staff involved in implementing the LIEP.

Adapted December 12, 2002
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