



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to welcome you to the Hattiesburg Public School District. Upon enrollment, a language other than English was noted on your child's Home Language Survey. According to state and federal law, our school district is required to assess the English language proficiency of your child in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Based on the results of the LAS Links Placement Test, a state-approved assessment for measuring English language proficiency, we have determined that your child could benefit from our language instruction program during the school year. Your child's "Student Profile Sheet" is attached.

Teachers of English Language Learners provide a variety of specialized services until students demonstrate skills in English sufficient for them to succeed academically in the regular classroom. While the rate of English language development varies between students, many exit the ELL program in 3-7 years. Your child's English language development will be assessed until he/she achieves: a Composite score of at least 4 on the LAS Links English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT), a Reading score of at least 4 on the LAS Links ELPT, and a Writing score of at least 4 on the LAS Links ELPT. The LAS Links ELPT scores range is from 1 to 5. Five is the highest score possible. Students who exit the program are monitored for academic success for 4 years. 1

All children, regardless of English proficiency, are eligible to participate in all school-wide programs. If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or a 504 plan, the language instruction educational program will be utilized in coordination with your child's existing plan.

Throughout the school year, you will have many opportunities to learn about your child's progress in academics and learning English. I encourage you to attend parent-teacher conferences and school events to support your child's academic success. Your efforts will help us meet the 2019-2020 expected rate for graduation of 100%.

You have the right to enroll or not enroll your child in the program. You also have the right to withdraw your child at any time from the program. If you have questions or comments regarding our English Language Program and/or services, please contact Carrie Hornsby at (601-582-5078 ext. 1076) for questions in English and Patricia Cater at (601-583-4311 ext. 5515) or Adriana Marin (601-582-6655, ext. 3005) for questions in Spanish.

We look forward to working with your child during this school year.

Sincerely,

Robert Williams, Ph.D.
Superintendent