

## **Programs for Limited English Proficient/Language Minority Students**

The Board of Education recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the district. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the district, the district shall take appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the student equal access to its programs. Students in a language minority (LM) or who have limited English proficiency (LEP) will be identified, assessed and provided appropriate services. No child will be admitted to or excluded from any program based solely on surname or LM status.

### **Definitions**

*Language Minority (LM):* Refers to a student whose linguistic background, such as country of birth or home environment, includes languages other than English. Language minority is based solely on the student's language background and not on proficiency.

*Limited English Proficiency (LEP):* Refers to an LM student whose proficiency in reading, writing, listening or speaking English is below that of grade- and age-level peers. Limited English proficiency is based on the assessment of a student's English language proficiency.

*English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL):* An instructional approach that can include structured ESOL immersion, content-based ESOL and pull-out ESOL instruction.

1. Structured ESOL immersion involves a bilingual teacher and a self-contained classroom.
2. Content-based ESOL allows the student to remain in the regular classroom and focuses on delivering content in an adapted English format.
3. Pull-out ESOL periodically removes students from the regular classroom for instruction in English.

*Bilingual Education:* An instructional approach that explicitly includes the student's native language in instruction. This approach requires an instructor fluent in the student's native language and proficient in content areas and is often used where many LEP students share the same language and where qualified bilingual teachers are available.

*Child:* Any individual age 3-21.

*Parent:* Parent, legal guardian or person otherwise responsible for the child.

*Language Instruction Education Program:* An instructional course in which an LEP child is placed for the purpose of developing and attaining English proficiency while meeting challenging state academic achievement standards as required by law. The program may make instructional use of both English and a child's native language and may include the participation of English proficient children if such course is designed to enable all participating children to become proficient in English and a second language.

The Board directs the administration to develop and implement language instruction programs that:

1. Identify language minority students through the use of a Student Home Language survey (see IGBH-AF1). The building administrator will develop procedures to ensure that all new and currently enrolled students complete the Home Language survey.
2. Identify LM students who are also limited English proficient. Any student who indicates the use of a language other than English will be assessed for English proficiency using the state-provided assessment instrument.
3. Determine the appropriate instructional environment for LEP students.
4. Annually assess the English proficiency of LEP students and monitor the progress of students receiving ESOL or bilingual instruction in order to determine their readiness for the mainstream classroom environment.
5. Provide parents with notice of and information regarding the instructional program as required by law. Parental involvement will be encouraged and parents will be regularly apprised of their child's progress.

Board Policy Adopted: December 10, 2007

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition Against Illegal Discrimination and Harassment  
CGC, State and Federal Programs Administration  
IGBC, Parent/Family Involvement in Instructional and Other Programs  
IGBCB, Programs for Migrant Students  
Legal Refs: Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC § 2000d-20 USC § 1703(f) Bilingual Education Act, 20 USC §§ 7401 *et seq.*  
English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act, P.L. 107-110  
34 CFR Part 100  
*Lau v. Nichols*, 414 U.S. 563 (1974)  
*Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)  
*Castaneda v. Pickard*, 648 F.2d 989 (5th Cir.1981)