

ENGLISH LEARNER INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

The Vision of the Lyon County Board of School Trustees is to graduate all students to be successful in college and career. The Mission of the Board of School Trustees is to provide relevant learning opportunities that develop adaptable, persistent, and self-directed learners capable of creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking necessary to solve complex challenges.

This Vision and Mission includes a commitment to provide high-quality instruction that enables English learners (ELs) to attain proficiency in the English language and improve their overall academic achievement. All EL students shall have equitable access to attain English language proficiency, with the necessary support to achieve success in the Nevada Academic Content Standards, and graduate with their cohort. The Board of Trustees is further committed to closing the achievement gap by implementing culturally responsive practices throughout the district and engaging families and the community. The following principles and implementation guidelines support these commitments.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. All pupils are provided instruction that enables those pupils to attain proficiency in the English language as soon as possible and improve their overall academic and linguistic achievement and proficiency.
2. The Lyon County School District supports the use of evidence-based strategies and a set of core principles for effective EL programs to ensure achievement, sustainability and culturally responsive practices. Students will follow LCSD established grade level curriculum based on Nevada Academic Content Standards.
3. The Lyon County School District systematically uses English Learners' languages, cultures, and experiences as the foundation for culturally responsive learning and success across all programs and activities of the school district, whether curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular, for 21st Century learning.
4. The Lyon County School District has implemented a practice of data-driven accountability for all schools.
5. Each individual child has a different pace and style of learning. There are many different approaches to instructing English Learners in both content literacy and English language acquisition that can result in mastery of the subjects, depending on the needs and abilities of a particular student. Children who are learning English benefit from instruction that is designed to address the academic and linguistic needs of those children.
6. Lyon County School District promotes access to educational opportunities, programs, and high-quality instruction for all students and their families. The District ensures meaningful community and parent engagement at our schools to provide communities and families with the tools to become advocates for the educational rights of students.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

1. All students who are learning English will be identified through the following assessment process:
 - a. Upon enrollment in Lyon County School District, a Home Language Survey must be completed by the parent or guardian indicating whether any language other than English is spoken in the home.
 - b. Within 30 days of the start of the school year or within 2 weeks after mid-year enrollment, students with another home language must be tested for English language proficiency using the WIDA ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) or the WIDA Measure of Developing English Language (MODEL) administered by a certified test administrator.
 - c. Student eligibility for the EL program will be determined based on their placement test results in accordance with criteria established by the Nevada Department of Education. Students who qualify for EL services shall be immediately placed into the appropriate support service program.
2. Students who have been identified as English learners will be reassessed annually by a certified test administrator using the WIDA ACCESS for ELL's 2.0.
3. Gaps in achievement, including, without limitation, in the core academic subjects and in high school graduation rates, between those students who are learning English and students who are proficient in English, will be eliminated through the following gap elimination process:
 - a. EL students will be placed appropriately as per assessed proficiency level and be monitored throughout the school year.
 - b. Teachers will use data to drive instruction, employ best teaching practices, use all available resources, design additional services, and continually evaluate programs.
 - c. EL and Regular Education teachers will collaborate to develop appropriate lessons, strategies, and interventions focused on language acquisition and academics standards.
 - d. Structures in individual school sites will be employed to facilitate student needs.
4. Upon request, the parents or legal guardians of students who are learning English:
 - a. have the opportunity to participate in this program;
 - b. will be provided with translations of important documents; and
 - c. will be provided with interpreters for conferences and other meetings.
5. Parents will be provided with information regarding other programs that are designed to improve the language acquisition, academic achievement, and proficiency of students who are learning English, and assist those parents and legal guardians in enrolling those students in such programs.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

1. EL (English Learner): The term is used to refer to a student aged 3-21 enrolled in school, whose primary or home language is not English and who does not meet proficiency on a state approved language proficiency assessment in accordance with Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

2. EL Program (English Learner Program): The term refers to the school district's method of providing language acquisition services to all of the school district's students who are English Learners. LCSD's program model is English as a Second Language (ESL).
3. ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment): Nevada's state-approved language proficiency assessment for students, developed by a state approved vendor.
4. ELD (English Language Development Curriculum Standards): Nevada's state-approved standards for EL Learners (e.g., WIDA standards).
5. TESL endorsement (Teaching English as a Second Language): refers to an endorsement issued by the State of Nevada to certify a teacher is highly qualified to teach ELs.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS

CAT – Content Area Tutoring

CBE – Content-Based EL

POE – Pull-Out EL/Resource

SIOP – Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol

REFERENCES:

Federal Programs for English Learners

NRS 389.520; NRS 388.134; NRS 388.407; 388.600-388.655

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ASSOCIATED DOCUMENT:

LCSD Title III English Learners and Immigrant Students Program Manual