(X) Required
( ) Local
( ) Notice

INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE

The Board of Education believes that students who, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, have limited English proficiency (referred to here as "Multilanguage Learners" or MLLs), will be more effective learners of both the language and the curriculum if they receive instruction in both their native language and English. The district will take steps to identify MLL students and provide MLL students with an appropriate program of either Bilingual Education or English as a New Language.

Pursuant to this policy and the regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent of Schools is directed to develop appropriate administrative regulations to ensure that students are:

1. screened for limited English proficiency, in accordance with Parts 117 and 154 of the Commissioner's Regulations, a process that will include interviews and assessments and will assign each MLL student to the appropriate subpopulation (newcomer, developing, long term, former or inconsistent/interrupted formal education).
2. identified, as appropriate, as an MLL student with a disability in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Part 154-3 of the Commissioner's Regulation;
3. annually evaluated to determine continued eligibility for ENL services. Included in the evaluation shall be each student's performance in English language proficiency and academic progress in content areas;
4. assured of access to appropriate instructional and support services, including guidance programs within the timeframes provided by Commissioner's Regulations; and
5. assured of having equal opportunities to participate in all school programs and extracurricular activities as non-MLL students.

The Superintendent will ensure that the Commissioner of Education is provided with all information required under the Commissioner's Regulations and that the District provides appropriate school-related information to the parents (or persons in parental relation) of MLL students in English, or when necessary, in the language they best understand.

The District will provide an orientation program annually for parents (or persons in parental relation) of MLL students and will meet individually with the parents at least once a year, in addition to regular parent/teacher meetings.

In addition, the District shall ensure that all teachers employed in any Bilingual and/or English as a New Language program are properly certified in accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations, and that all staff receive appropriate professional development on MLL students.

Ref: Education Law §3204

Policy Adopted: October 13, 1994
Amended: June 17, 2015