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hat Happens When My Student Becomes Proficient?

When a student scores “Proficient” on the Arizona English Language Learner assessment, (AZELLA), he or she has attained the English language proficiency level necessary to be exited from the English language learner program.

You will receive a parent letter from the school advising you that your student has learned enough English to exit the SEI classroom and move into a mainstream classroom.

The student will continue to receive customized instruction in a mainstream classroom by a teacher trained in Structured English Immersion (SEI).

The student will be monitored for two (2) years following his or her exit from the SEI program to ensure continued academic success.

The student will be eligible to receive extra help if needed in a before school or after school program, intersession classes, or summer school. Please contact your student's school if extra help is needed.



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hat If I Have Questions?

Your school district has been involved in the implementation of the English language learner's SEI Program. Please feel free to contact the school's administrator or teacher for specific information regarding your student.

The Goal for English Language Learners:

The goal is to help ELL students learn English quickly and move into mainstream classes with the depth of English knowledge necessary for rigorous class work.

If you have specific questions regarding implementation of the laws regarding English language learners, please contact the Office of English Language Acquisition Services at the Arizona Department of Education.

Kelly Koenig
Deputy Associate Superintendent
Office of English Language Acquisition Services
(602) 542-0753

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Diane Douglas
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Success for our English Language Learners



Information for Parents With a Student in a Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program

How Did My Student Qualify For This Program?

When a student is enrolled in school, parents must complete a Primary Home Language Survey that indicates a student's primary language.

If a student's primary language is NOT English, then he or she is assessed to determine his or her proficiency level in English.

A student's English proficiency level is measured using the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA). If the results of the assessment indicate that the student is NOT proficient in English, then he or she qualifies for placement in a Structured English Immersion (SEI) classroom.

If a student tests proficient on the AZELLA, he or she will be placed in a mainstream classroom.

What Is ELD?

"ELD" means English Language Development. The content of ELD emphasizes the English language itself. ELD instruction includes pronunciation (phonology), word building blocks (morphology), word order (syntax), and vocabulary (lexicon and semantics). These elements are foundational for proficiency in:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

The Facts

Arizona has a law for students who are not proficient in English, also known as English Language Learners (ELL).

An accelerated English language program, called Structured English Immersion (SEI), has been designed to help students learn English.

SEI is a program designed to help students learn English, in a time period not normally intended to exceed one year.

The expectation is that a focused, directed instructional approach, based on time-on-task research and explicit English acquisition instruction, will produce dramatically improved results for our English language learners.



Benefits of Structured English Immersion for ELLs

- Students will learn English at an accelerated pace.
- Students can concentrate on learning English.
- Students will learn the English required for academic class work.
- Students will be in classrooms with teachers who are trained to teach English Language Development.

What Is A Structured English Immersion (SEI) Classroom?

The Structured English Immersion (SEI) classroom is designed to teach English to students who are not proficient in the English language. The class structure consists of:

- English as the language of instruction.
- Students receiving four (4) hours of English Language Development daily in Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Vocabulary and Grammar.
- Materials in English.
- Students grouped by language proficiency level.
- Students taught by highly-qualified teachers.
- Students taught English at an accelerated rate.