

Policies

Westerly Public Schools English Language Learner Instruction

No. 6120

Westerly Public Schools English Language Learner (ELL) Program uses a multi-leveled approach to increasing student language proficiency while students strive to meet grade level standards, grade span expectations and World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) language proficiency standards. Students must acquire English language proficiency and academic competency simultaneously in order to make adequate yearly progress in accordance with NCLB. Teachers must address social language needs, academic language and socio-cultural knowledge. While striving to meet ELL standards in each of the language domains, (speaking, listening, reading and writing) students must use newly acquired language to make sense of content. Using the newly learned content language, students then meet the rigorous grade level standards for each subject and grade level. On all grade levels, teachers use the best available service delivery in order to accomplish this task.

An assessment of English language proficiency is given to all students annually, using the official State of Rhode Island ACCESS test. This assessment is used to measure progress in language acquisition and proficiency in English. The ACCESS and NECAP results are used to determine the district's AMAO (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives). In addition to using ACCESS and NECAP data, local assessment data along with classroom performance are used to determine ELL service hours and exit criteria. ELL students are subject to all classroom evaluations and assessments as language proficiency allows.

Adopted: June 3, 2009